

Arafat: Israeli agents killed Sartawi

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat accused Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, of killing moderate Palestinian official Issam Sartawi in a gun battle in Beirut, Mr. Arafat, in North Yemen for talks on the Palestinian situation, told the official news agency SABA: "The Zionist intelligence carried out this crime with the help of several agents working under various covers, but who are directly linked to the Israeli intelligence service Mossad." Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), described Mr. Sartawi's death as a great loss to the Palestinian revolution, and said it gives us the incentive to go ahead until the flag of the Palestinian revolution is raised over Jerusalem, he added.

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Egypt, Jordan discuss trade

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Jordan began talks Sunday on normalising trade relations after a four-year break, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. The Jordanian delegation, led by under-secretary of Trade and Industry Muhammad Saleh Al Hourani, arrived in Cairo Saturday for a three-day visit. MENA quoted Egypt's chief delegate to the talks, Under-Secretary of Economy and Foreign Trade Ahmad Wafai, as saying Sunday's discussions dealt with ways of overcoming obstacles in the way of bilateral trade. Mr. Wafai, who led Egypt's negotiation team in last month's trade talks with Israel, was also quoted as saying Egyptian exports to Jordan would be discussed in coming sessions. On his arrival Saturday, Mr. Hourani told reporters that revival of Jordan's 1973 trade protocol with Egypt would figure high on his agenda.

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Israeli soldier killed in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — An Israeli soldier was killed and three were wounded Sunday when an explosive device blew up near their mobile patrol southeast of Beirut, an Israeli military spokesman said. The soldier died when a military vehicle overturned as it manoeuvred, following the blast near the village of Qabr Shmouna, about 10 kilometres from the capital. One other soldier was wounded in that incident and the other casualties occurred in the explosion itself, the spokesman said.

China warns Vietnam against 'provocations'

PEKING (R) — China said Sunday that 14 Chinese had been killed or injured along the Sino-Vietnamese border in March and warned Vietnam of serious consequences if it continued to provoke armed clashes. The new China News Agency said the Chinese Foreign Ministry gave the warning in a note handed to the Vietnamese embassy. The note also accused Vietnam of being responsible for more than 70 armed provocations last month. The agency quoted the note as saying: "The Vietnamese authorities have given much publicity to their intention to normalise Sino-Vietnamese relations, but actually they have intensified armed provocations against Chinese areas along the border..."

Rumasa files found in kidnap hunt

MADRID (R) — Police hunting a kidnap victim have found hidden files of the Rumasa group, which had been reported missing after the government takeover, Interior Ministry sources said Sunday. The government took over Rumasa, Spain's largest private holding company, in February saying it was leading for collapse, and accused the former management of financial irregularities. Official sources said a number of documents were missing. Police sources said the files were found Sunday behind a false wall in a garage owned by Rumasa in southern Madrid.

Rawlings attends Qadhafi symposium

ABIDJAN (R) — Ghanaian leader Lt.-Lt. Jerry Rawlings has paid a one-day visit to Tripoli to address a symposium on Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi's political thought. Accra Radio reported Sunday. The broadcast monitored in Abidjan said Finance and Economic Planning Secretary (Minister) Kwesi Botchwey went with him. Lt.-Lt. Rawlings is an open admirer of Col. Qadhafi and once said Libya was a "revolutionary dream."

Numeiri, Doe to hold talks

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri Sunday left for Liberia where he is due to hold talks with head of state Samuel Doe on bilateral and African issues, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said. During his four-day stay in Monrovia, Mr. Numeiri would also attend celebrations marking Liberia's third anniversary of its 1980 military coup which brought Mr. Doe to power.

Jordan, citing return to square one, abandons talks with PLO

- 'Reagan plan presented vehicle to Arab plan, but movement needed agreement'
- Jordanians will not act separately in any talks, we leave it to the PLO and Palestinians to choose their own way, cabinet statement says
- 'Situation forces Jordan to safeguard its national security, but Jordanians and Palestinians will remain one family'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Sunday abandoned talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on joint political moves for Middle East peace and stressed that the Kingdom "will neither act separately nor in lieu of anybody in any Middle East peace negotiations."

The Jordanian decision was made at an extraordinary cabinet session Sunday chaired by His Majesty King Hussein and attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

A declaration issued after the session said that the Jordanian decision came in the light of a new PLO proposal to Jordan to start a new course of action that differed from an earlier Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and "that did not give priority to saving the land, thus sending us back to where we were in October, 1982."

Jordan and the PLO have been holding intensive talks on joint political moves since last October, and Sunday's cabinet statement disclosed that the Jordanian leadership and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had laid the final draft of an agreement just before Mr. Arafat left for Kuwait last week. Instead of coming back to Amman, after approving the agreement with other PLO leaders in Kuwait, the PLO chairman sent an envoy, Mr. Hani Al Hassan, to convey to the Jordanian government a set of "new ideas" that

apparently were unacceptable to Jordan.

"It became evident that we could not proceed with the course of political action which we had planned together and to which we had agreed in principle and in detail to save our land and people," the cabinet statement said.

"In view of the results of the efforts we made with the PLO, and in compliance with the 1974 Rabat summit resolutions, and through the strict observance of the independence of the Palestinian decision, we respect the decision of the PLO, it being the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

"Accordingly, we leave it to the PLO and to the Palestinian people to choose the ways and means for the salvation of themselves and their land, and for the realisation of their declared aims in the manner they see fit," the statement said.

The statement added: "We in Jordan, having refused from the beginning to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, will neither act separately nor in lieu of anybody

in any Middle East peace negotiations."

"Jordan will work as a member of the Arab League, in compliance with its resolutions to support the PLO within our capabilities, and in compliance with the requirements of our national security," the statement added.

It said Jordan would continue to "provide support for our brothers in the occupied Palestinian territories... and side with them in their ordeal."

"In the no-war and no-peace situation that prevails, we find ourselves more concerned than anybody else to confront the de facto annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

"It forces us to take all steps necessary to safeguard our national security in all its dimensions. Jordanians and Palestinians shall remain one family," the statement said.

Following is the full text of the statement:

Since the Israeli aggression of June, 1967, and through our awareness of the dangers and repercussions of the (Israeli) occupation, Jordan has accepted the political option as one of the basic options that may lead to the recovery of Arab territories occupied through military aggression. Consequently, Jordan accepted Security Council Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967. When the October 1973 war happened, it underlined the importance of continuing work on the political option while at the same time building our intrinsic strength. This war brought about Security Council Resolution (SCR) 338 which put a stop to military operations and implicitly re-emphasised Security Council Resolution 242.

Based on SCR 338, disengagement agreements were concluded between Israel on the one hand and Egypt and Syria on the other. This process completed the Arab circle immediately concerned with the recovery of the occupied lands through political means.

On this basis, Jordan, in cooperation with the Arab states, developed and adopted the concept of forming a unified Arab delegation that would attend an international conference for the purpose of achieving a just and comprehensive peace settlement to the Middle East problem.

In 1974, the Rabat Arab summit conference designated the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Jordan went along with the Arab consensus, and has been committed to that decision ever since.

Abu Odeh says relations will be normal

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh said Sunday that, despite abandoning talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on joint political moves for Middle East peace, Jordan would continue to conduct normal relations with the organisation.

PLO offices in Jordan would continue their normal work, the PLO's Badr Forces would remain

in the country, joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees would continue functioning at all levels, and brotherly relations would remain warm and strong. Mr. Abu Odeh told the Jordan Times.

"Our decision to abandon talks with the PLO leadership on joint political moves for Middle East peace in no way means that our present relationship will be weakened," the minister said. "Jordan's support for the Palestinian cause is sound and strong, and will remain so in the future," he added.

Jordan has also cautioned against letting time pass by without concluding a just and comprehensive peace settlement because time was, and still is, essential

to Israel's aim of creating new facts and bringing about a fait accompli.

Sixteen years have passed since the occupation, during which Israel established 146 colonies in the West Bank alone and has illegally expropriated more than 50 per cent of that land.

Even today, Israel forges ahead, in defiance of all international conventions and of the United Nations resolutions, with a systematic policy of evacuating the inhabitants of the West Bank to change the demographic composition of the occupied Arab territories thus realising its designs to establish the Zionist state on the whole of Palestine.

From the early days of occupation, and through awareness of the Zionist aims, Jordan made all these warnings, and undertook the task of implementing all policies that may support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and help them stay on their national soil. With this objective in mind, we worked incessantly on all levels:

Domestically, Jordan provides markets for the industrial and agricultural products of the West Bank and Gaza, and continues to extend support for the existing institutions in the West Bank; also we continue to attach great importance to building our intrinsic defence capability in cooperation with other Arab states, through the conviction held by our nation of the danger posed by Zionist ambitions which threaten the Arab World and its future generations.

Within this context Jordan paid particular attention to building its armed forces, looked for new sources of arms within the available financial means, and enacted the

military service law to mobilise all its national resources for self-defence and for the defence of the Arab World, because Jordan remains, by virtue of its geographic location, a constant target for Israeli aggression, and the first line of defence on the east flank of the Arab World.

On the Arab level, Jordan sought to provide financial support for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, and formed a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee which continues to implement the policy of supporting our people in the occupied lands.

On the international level, Jordan worked to mobilise world opinion to bring pressure to bear on Israel. And in the United Nations, through cooperation with Arab and friendly countries, Jordan succeeded in passing resolutions condemning, isolating and putting pressure on Israel.

All the while, Israel continued with its expansionist colonisation programme, evicting the Arab inhabitants of Palestine and replacing them by Jewish immigrants. We strive to confront this programme which stands to affect Jordan more than any other country, and which threatens Jordan's identity and national security.

In June 1982, Israel launched its aggression on Lebanon, which resulted in that country joining the list of occupied Arab territories. Lebanon was not excluded from the ambitions of Israel, which had already annexed Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and which works for the de facto annexation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Last September, United States President Ronald Reagan declared his peace initiative to solve the Middle East crisis, and shortly

(Continued on page 2)

Abu Nidal group claims responsibility

Sartawi assassinated

ALBUFEIRA, Portugal (Agencies) — Issam Sartawi, personal political counsellor to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, was assassinated here Sunday and a radical Palestinian group claimed responsibility for the killing.

Mr. Sartawi, a moderate member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was killed by a lone gunman in a hotel lobby in this Portuguese seaside resort, where he was attending a Socialist International congress as an observer.

A close aide of Mr. Sartawi, Anwar Abu Eishah, was shot in the leg in his attempt to shield his chief's body from the bullets. Mr. Eishah was immediately transferred to hospital where he was reported to be recovering.

Mr. Sartawi, the first-ever PLO member to attend a Socialist International conference, was a long-time peace campaigner, deeply committed to maintaining a dialogue between Palestinians and Israel.

In Damascus, an extremist Palestinian group led by breakaway radical Abu Nidal said in a statement: "We implemented the death sentence with Palestine and Arab bullets on Issam Sartawi... the enemy of our people."

Abu Nidal was a member of Fateh, the mainstream PLO group, before forming his breakaway group. The group's statement said Mr. Sartawi was a "cheap servant of the Israeli intelligence (service) Mossad and the British im-



Issam Sartawi

intelligence."

Mr. Sartawi's death was "a result of the Palestine National Council (Palestinian parliament-in-exile) resolutions in the past and those taken in Algiers last February," the statement added without elaboration.

Often described a roving PLO ambassador and close aide of PLO Chairman Arafat, Mr. Sartawi, 48, came under the wrath of the radicals over his contacts with peace campaigners in Israel.

Mr. Sartawi's peace efforts produced one major achievement last February when he arranged talks between Mr. Arafat and three Israeli leftists in Tunis.

PLO hard-liners were quick to condemn Mr. Arafat for the meeting. On returning home, the Israeli delegation was also de-

Despite repeated rebukes from the PLO, he was confident that without considerable support from mainstream Palestinians he would not have been able to keep on talking to Israelis over a period of at least seven years.

Mr. Sartawi, who was based in Paris and regarded as the PLO's leading expert on European affairs, was once reported to be under threat of trial by radical Palestinians for his contacts with the Israeli moderates.

It followed a peace prize awarded by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in 1979, which he shared with former Israeli Knesset (parliament) member Arye Eliav. Mr. Sartawi accepted the prize despite a warning from the PLO and later offered his resignation from the Palestine National Council (PNC). He was then told to stay on but his walk-out from the Algiers conference last February appeared to have ended his membership of the council.

Clear concept

Unlike the vague concepts of a solution to the Middle East conflict floated by some PLO leaders, Mr. Sartawi was clear on a possible settlement.

He said the Palestinians should settle for an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

In an earlier interview with

(Continued on page 2)

Pym says Saudis not pessimistic over peace efforts

RIYADH (R) — British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym said Sunday he found Saudi Arabian leaders anxious but not pessimistic over Middle East peace moves.

Mr. Pym was speaking at a news conference before flying to an undisclosed desert retreat for an audience with King Fahd. He was later to go to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The foreign secretary had earlier met Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, Defence Minister Prince Sultan, Interior Minister Prince Nayef and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Indonesia pledges support for Palestinian state

JAKARTA (Agencies) — President Suharto of Indonesia told visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Sunday his country would support any Arab attempt to establish an independent Palestinian state.

State Secretary Sudharmono told reporters Suharto gave the assurance in a two-hour meeting with Mr. Mubarak, who arrived here Saturday on the final leg of an Asian tour which has also taken him to China, North Korea and Japan.

Indonesia would back any Middle East peace plan acceptable to the Arab World, Mr. Sudharmono said.

He added that Mr. Suharto had asked the Egyptian leader to help explain Indonesian policy in the former Portuguese colony of East

Timor to African countries before a United Nations General Assembly vote on the issue, due to take place later this year.

Indonesia annexed East Timor in 1976 in the wake of the 1974 revolution in Portugal. Since then Lisbon has sponsored resolutions at the U.N. calling for Timorese self-determination. Indonesia wants the issue removed from the U.N. agenda.

Mr. Mubarak, who is due to leave for home Monday, also discussed increased economic and technological cooperation with Mr. Suharto, Mr. Sudharmono said.

He said Indonesia supports "the most realistic and the best solution. We defend the independence of Palestine."

Asked about efforts to get Jordan to join U.S.-sponsored peace talks with backing from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), he said: "It is too early to talk of pessimism."

"Those talks are not over," he said, referring to talks between King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"The view here is not one of pessimism but it is undoubtedly one of anxiety that progress seems to be slow and difficult."

"Everyone knows, and acutely so here, the difficulties with which they (King Hussein and Mr. Ara-

fati) have been grappling," the foreign secretary said.

Mr. Arafat may visit Riyadh from North Yemen within the next 24 hours, according to sources here, but there was no suggestion Mr. Pym would meet him.

Mr. Pym disclosed, however, that his Minister of State Douglas Hurd might meet Farouk Kadoumi, head of the PLO Political Department and effectively its foreign minister, some time soon if it would assist the peace process.

It would be the first face-to-face meeting between a top PLO off-

icial and a British minister but British officials said it remained only an idea.

Mr. Pym made the disclosure in answer to a reporter's question. He had reiterated that London wished the PLO would recognise Israel and renounce "terrorism" before Britain would treat with PLO leaders regularly at the highest level.

British sources said Mr. Pym considered Saudi Arabia to be actively involved in trying to further the peace process but that it was acting with traditional discretion.

Kuwait expresses doubts on planned oil slick talks

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Health Minister Abdulrahman Al Awadi was reported to have expressed doubts Sunday whether a crisis meeting on a huge oil slick polluting the Gulf would take place as planned on Wednesday.

Ministers from eight Gulf states were due to resume talks in Kuwait which were adjourned last Thursday. The formal opening of that session was delayed for two days political wrangling between warring Iran and Iraq.

Dr. Awadi, asked by reporters whether the Wednesday meeting would go ahead as planned, replied: "We cannot predict anything," according to the Kuwaiti News Agency.

Informed sources said Dr. Awadi Sunday postponed a planned shuttle to Iran and Iraq to

hammer out an accord on capping offshore wells leaking in a Gulf war combat zone because no response to the trip was received from either country.

Upwards of 2,000 barrels of oil a day are pouring into the Gulf from wells in Iran's Nowruz field, as the talks on stemming the flow drag on. Experts reckon some 7,500 square miles of the Gulf are now dotted with oil.

Officials said technical experts Sunday began drawing-up an action plan in Kuwait for capping the wells and cleaning up the slick of thick, tarry crude oil.

Gulf diplomats said an agreement by Iran and Iraq on safe-conduct for repair crews was central to any attempts to cap the wells.

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Jordan abandons talks with PLO

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After the Fez Arab summit conference resumed its proceedings where the Arab peace plan was formulated. It was evident that both peace proposals were inspired by the provisions of SCR 242 by the United Nations resolutions that followed.

Jordan, as well as other Arab and friendly countries, found that the Reagan plan lacked some of the principles of the Fez peace plan, but, at the same time, it contained a number of positive elements. Given the realities of the international situation, on the other hand, the Arab peace plan enabled it to make effective progress. The Reagan peace plan, presented the vehicle that could propel the Fez peace plan forward, and Jordan proceeded to explore this possibility.

We believe, and continue to do so, that this aim could be achieved through an agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the establishment of a confederal relationship that would govern and regulate the future of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. This relationship would express itself, from the moment of its inception, through joint Jordanian-Palestinian action based on the Fez peace plan, SCR 242 and the principles of the Reagan initiative. In addition, such a confederal relationship would be sought if only through the faith Arabs have in the joint Arab destiny, and in recognition of the bonds that have linked the peoples of Jordan and Palestine throughout history.

These concepts, and the ideas and assessments that follow from them, formed the subject of intensive discussions held over several meetings between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, as well as between the government of Jordan and a number of senior members of the PLO, within the framework of a higher committee which was formed for this purpose and which held its deliberations over the five months between October 1982 and the recent con-

vention of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in 1983. In addition, a number of prominent Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories took part in the discussions.

These deliberations resulted in the irrefutable conclusion that Jordan and Palestine are joined by undeniable, objective considerations reflected by the common threat against them which united their interests and their goals. There also resulted a joint conviction in the soundness of our approach, and we agreed to form a joint stand capable of pursuing political action, which, with Arab support, could take advantage of the available opportunity to liberate our people, land and form most of which Arab Jerusalem.

Then, upon the request of Mr. Yasser Arafat, we waited to see the results of Palestine National Council meeting, where Mr. Arafat assured as he would act to secure the support of the council for the envisaged joint political action, on whose basic elements we agreed, pending their development in the Palestine National Council by declaring a confederate-union relationship between Jordan and Palestine.

In our latest meeting with Mr. Arafat, held in Amman between March 31 and April 5, we conducted a joint assessment of the realities of the Palestine problem in general, and in particular of the dilemma facing the Palestinian people under occupation. We also discussed political action in accordance with the Arab and international peace plans, including President Reagan's peace initiative, bearing in mind the resolutions of the PNC. We held intensive talks on the principles and the methods; and we re-emphasised the importance of a confederal relationship between Jordan and Palestine as being a practical conceptualisation from which to work for the implementation of this initiative. We agreed to work together in this delicate and crucial time to form a united Arab stand that would enable us to deal with the practical

aspects of these initiatives, in the hope of achieving a just, permanent and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem, especially the Palestinian problem.

We also agreed to start, immediately, joint political action on the Arab level to secure Arab support that would contribute enormously to the realisation of the common goal of liberating the lands and people under occupation, thus fulfilling our duty to work in all possible ways and to take advantage of every possible opportunity to achieve our aims.

Together with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, we laid the final draft of our agreement, which required us and Mr. Arafat to make immediate contacts with Arab leaders to inform them of its contents, seeking their blessing of support for the agreement.

The PLO Executive Committee deliberated over this issue in the course of several meetings, and finally Mr. Arafat decided to discuss the agreement with other PLO leaders outside Jordan, and return to Amman after two days to conclude the joint steps necessary for the implementation of the agreement.

Five days later, an envoy was sent by the PLO Executive Committee chairman to Amman, to convey to us new ideas, and to propose a new course of action that differed from our agreement and that did not give priority to saving the land, thus sending us back to where we were in October 1982.

In the light of this, it became evident that we could not proceed with the course of political action which we had planned together, and to which we had agreed in principle and in detail, in answer to our historic responsibility to take the opportunities made available by Arab and international initiatives, and save our land and people.

In view of the results of the efforts we made with the PLO, and in compliance with the 1974 Rabat summit resolutions, and through the strict observance of the inde-

pendence of the Palestinian decision, we respect the decision of the PLO, it being the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Accordingly, we leave it to the PLO and to the Palestinian people to choose the ways and means for the salvation of themselves and their land, and for the realisation of their declared aims in the manner they see fit.

We in Jordan, having refused from the beginning to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, will neither act separately nor in lieu of anybody in any Middle East peace negotiations.

Jordan will work as a member of the Arab League, in compliance with its resolutions to support the PLO within our capabilities, and in compliance with the requirements of our national security.

Being consistent with ourselves, and faithful to our principles and to Arab Jerusalem and our holy shrines, we shall continue to provide support for our brothers in the occupied Palestinian territories, and make our pledge to them before the Almighty that we shall remain their faithful brothers, and side with them in their ordeal.

As for us in Jordan, we are directly affected by the results of the continued occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through the accelerating colonisation programme and through the economic pressures systematically being brought on the Palestinian people to force them out of their land.

In the light of these facts, and in the no-war and no-peace situation that prevails, we find ourselves more concerned that anybody else to confront the de facto annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which forces us to take all steps necessary to safeguard our national security in all its dimensions.

Jordanians and Palestinians shall remain one family that cares for its national unity to the same extent that it cares to stay on this beloved Arab land.

May God assist us in our aspirations.

PLO peace campaigner assassinated

(Continued from page 1)

Reuters, Mr. Sartawi said the PLO should modify some of its basic policy guidelines—primarily its charter which Israel depicts as proof that the organisation was committed to the destruction of the Jewish state.

At the same time, he said the intricacy of the Palestinian nationalist movement made it difficult for Mr. Arafat to come up with statements more attractive to the West.

"I personally keep pushing Arafat to adopt more moderate formulations but what has he got so far from the other side except total rejection?" he said.

"I have issued open appeals for Israelis to come forward and meet but I have largely received rejections."

Asked during a recent interview whether he thought he was on somebody's hit-list, he nodded but after grimacing bitterly he said: "It would be presumptuous of me to think so."

Criticism of Abu Nidal

He placed much of the blame for Israel's invasion of Lebanon last June on hardliners within the Palestinian movement, saving particularly harsh words for Abu Nidal, a leader of an extremist group which broke away from the PLO several years ago.

Abu Nidal's organisation was widely believed to have been behind the attack on Israel's ambassador to London which gave Israel an excuse to the invasion of Lebanon three days later.

"I would put Abu Nidal on trial as soon as a Palestinian state was established," Mr. Sartawi said. "He gave Israel the excuse to embark on the attack which led to catastrophic results for the Palestinians in Lebanon."

"Now extremists like Abu Nidal hail the war in Lebanon as a great victory but I know that with only one more such victory the Palestinians will never get a state," he said.

Tributes pour in

In London, Britain's opposition leader Michael Foot condemned the killing of Mr. Sartawi.

Mr. Foot, leader of the British Labour Party, attended the weekend conference of the Socialist International but left before the shooting.

Mr. Sartawi was "a man of great courage, striving for peace in most difficult circumstances," he said in a statement issued in London. "His tragic death is a great loss to all those who seek a just and honourable peace throughout the Middle East. We reiterate our condemnation of all acts of terrorism."

Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky said that through Mr. Sartawi's death the PLO had lost one of their cleverest and most courageous representatives.

"Sartawi, who at the beginning of his political career showed certain sympathies for terrorist methods, had later gained the conviction that a solution for the Palestinian problem can be found only by negotiations and agreement between the peoples involved," Mr. Kreisky told reporters.

France expressed shock at the killing.

A foreign ministry spokesman said: "We learned with shock of the assassination of an advocate of dialogue in the Middle East who, in the past, had stressed with courage the need for direct contact between the peoples of the region."

Many prominent Socialist politicians, including Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt who was re-elected as chairman of the Socialist International Sunday, were in the Hotel Montecarlo at the time of the shooting.

Eyewitnesses said the shooting was carried out by a lone gunman. Former Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, who was close to the scene of shooting, said he heard at least five shots. The attack took place at 9.15

a.m. when delegates were awaiting the beginning of the closing session at 10 a.m.

The assassin fired five times with a pistol which appeared to have a silencer.

Two bullets hit Mr. Sartawi who collapsed immediately, two others hit his deputy when he tried to shield his chief with his body and a fifth hit a wall.

The Portuguese police said a lone gunman was responsible for the killing. He was chased by two security men immediately after the attack, but vanished over a wall. Six spent cartridge cases were found in the hotel lobby.

The state radio said that the investigators were centring their suspicions on a 26-year-old Arab who had been staying in a hotel close to the one in which Mr. Sartawi was killed.

The radio said the Moroccan had disappeared, but police were investigating an abandoned taxi which was taken from the southern coast and found abandoned outside the port of Setubal, 50 kilometres south of Lisbon Sunday afternoon.

Controversial attendance

Mr. Sartawi's presence at the conference of world socialists had caused a major controversy.

He attended in response to an official invitation but was not allowed to take a seat under the PLO

banner because of objections raised by Israeli Labour Party leader Shimon Peres.

He sat at the meeting with a badge describing him as a liaison representative. He asked permission to speak from the podium but this was refused.

Mr. Peres expressed deep shock over the killing.

Asked who he thought was responsible for shooting Mr. Sartawi, Mr. Peres said:

"He was a moderate and I suppose it's the people who want to get rid of the moderates."

Instead, he issued a letter to the president of the Socialist International, former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, which he circulated among delegates.

The letter said that it was the moral duty of the world to recognise Palestinian rights.

Mr. Brandt interrupted the conference proceedings Sunday morning to pay tribute to Mr. Sartawi. As Mr. Sartawi's body still lay under a blanket in the hotel lobby, his letter was read in full.

"At the centre of the Middle East conflict stand the Palestinian people with their legitimate claims to their inalienable right to self-determination, their right to establish a state of their own," the letter said.

It also referred to PLO attempts to gain recognition from the Socialist International and listed examples of PLO moderation in recent years.

Arafat condoles Sartawi's sister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Imad Shakour, political adviser to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Sunday deputised for Mr. Arafat to pay condolences to the sister of Dr. Issam Sartawi, another close Arafat aide, who was assassinated in Portugal Sunday. Sahab Sartawi Jarrar, a gynaecologist by profession, lives in Jordan with her husband and family. Mr. Shakour told the Jordan Times that a delegation comprising PLO Political Department Director Abdul Latif Abu Hijleh; Mr. Arafat's office director, Dr. Ramzi Khouri; Palestine Liberation Army officer Lt-Col. Ghazi Mhanna; left Tams for Lisbon to investigate the murder of Dr. Sartawi, who was shot down by a gunman while attending a Socialist International conference in the Portuguese seaside resort of Albufeira. The PLO office in Amman will request the Jordanian government's approval for the burial of Dr. Sartawi in Jordan, Mr. Shakour said.

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مركز المدينة

Badran receives French general

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday conferred with the visiting Chairman of the French Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt.-Gen. Jeannou Lacaze.

The meeting, at the prime minister's office, was attended by the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and French ambassador to Jordan Jacques-Alain de Sedouy.

Later Lt.-Gen. Lacaze held talks with Sharif Zaid in the presence of the accompanying French military delegation which arrived in Amman Saturday, at the start of an official visit to Jordan at the invitation of Sharif Zaid.

The delegation members are due to tour a number of army positions and archaeological sites in the country.



The leader of the Soviet delegation to the meeting of the Arab-Soviet Chamber of Commerce board Sunday holds a press conference (Petra photo)

Salmonella conference arranged for April 25

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day conference on salmonella disease will open at the University of Jordan on April 25.

Taking part in the conference will be scientists, doctors and researchers from five Arab states and specialists from the United Kingdom, the United States and Belgium. In addition 100 physicians from Jordanian universities, the Health Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Jordanian Medical Association, the Royal Med-

ical Services and the Jordanian private sector will attend.

The participants will examine ways of combating salmonella disease and fighting its effects with antibiotics. It will also study preventive measures to stop the spread of the disease.

According to Dr. Asem Al Shababi from the University of Jordan, salmonella is one of the main group of diseases found widely in the Arab World.

History conference ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Second Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan ended here Sunday. The participants issued recommendations that called for greater awareness in Jordan in general about the importance of protecting the environment.

This can be best achieved through seminars to be held in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and by issuing booklets to schoolchildren, according to Dr. Adnan Al Hadidi director-general of the Department of Antiquities who attended the conference.

The conference recommended that Al Azraq oasis should be declared a national wildlife reserve and that pollution in the area should be immediately counteracted, Dr. Hadidi said.

The conference also called on the government to issue regulations for coordinating work between government departments in a drive to preserve archaeological sites.

During the closing session Sunday, the participants decided to hold the next conference in the West Germany city of Tübingen in March 1986. The theme of the next conference will be Trade, Commerce and International Relations throughout the History of Jordan.

Soviet official holds press conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The leader of the Soviet delegation to the meeting of the joint Arab-Soviet Chamber of Commerce board, Mr. Muhieddinov, Sunday held a press conference to review the activities of the organisation since its establishment in 1964 in Abu Dhabi.

The Arab-Soviet economic cooperation in general and Jordanian-Soviet relations in particular have been progressing well to date, Mr. Muhieddinov pointed out. He also spoke about the Soviet Union's present food production programme which runs

until 1990 and expressed his country's readiness to help Arab countries solve their problems in agricultural production and animal husbandry. Over the past two days, he said the joint committee has discussed ways of further promoting economic cooperation.

At the press conference Mr. Muhieddinov also voiced his country's total support for Arab rights and their struggle to liberate the occupied Arab lands. The Soviet Union is concerned with the establishment of a just and comprehensive Middle East peace and condemns the Israeli illegal practices in the Arab territory, Mr. Muhieddinov said.

At the outset of the press conference the president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Hamdi Al Tabba' reviewed the Soviet Arab economic relations and cooperation between Jordan and the USSR in economic and trade affairs.

The committee talks in the past two days were held in an atmosphere of friendship and harmony which helped in arriving at very good results, Mr. Tabba' concluded.

Madaba health survey planned

MADABA (Petra) — The health department here will next week conduct a survey of all schoolchildren in the Madaba district in order to discover health abnormalities among them.

Also in Madaba school teachers and children Sunday joined the private sector in launching a social work week which entails cleaning up the streets and public squares and of performing other types of socially useful public services in the city.

Airline training talks open

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives from 13 Arab airlines opened a three-day meeting in Amman Sunday to discuss ways of raising the standard of personnel training in civil airlines.

In a speech to the delegates chairman of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Mr. Ali Ghandour said that training is behind the improvement of airline operations and is bound to lead to increased revenues, Mr. Ghandour also called for cooperation among Arab airlines on the one hand and between Arab airlines and those of the third world on the other.

The delegates, who represent airline personnel training departments, will also discuss ways of reducing training overheads.

Hassan calls for greater trade with Soviet Union

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday spoke of the need for achieving world food security and stressed the importance of linking the economic needs of third world nations with education.

He was speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Court with heads of the delegations to the Arab-Soviet Chamber of Commerce board meeting which is being held in Amman.

Prince Hassan called for further cooperation between the Soviet Union and Arab countries in these fields and stressed the need for developing cultural and trade links between the USSR and the Arab World.

The Arab-Soviet Chamber of Commerce was established 10 years ago with the aim of promoting trade links between Arab countries and the Soviet Union. The Soviet delegation includes representatives from all Soviet institutions specialising in foreign trade.

He was speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Court with heads of the delegations to the Arab-Soviet Chamber of Commerce board meeting which is being held in Amman.

Mr. Muhieddinov voiced his country's desire to develop its ties with Arab countries in a number of fields.

During the meeting Mr. Asfour expressed Jordan's appreciation to the Soviet Union for helping Jordan execute a number of economic projects within the framework of a joint economic and technical agreement signed between the two countries. He also expressed satisfaction with the volume of trade between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

Board communiqué

Economic cooperation talks
The delegation, led by Mr. Muhieddinov also Sunday held

Meanwhile, the Arab-Soviet Chamber of Commerce board Sunday issued a communiqué summing up its work over the past

few days. The communiqué said both sides expressed their readiness to continue work towards developing bilateral cooperation in economic, industrial and trade affairs.

A team representing the Arab Chambers of Commerce will pay a visit to the Soviet Union this autumn at the invitation of the Soviet delegation to discuss cooperation between the two sides, the communiqué said. According to the communiqué the two sides will cooperate in organising exhibitions of Arab products in the Soviet Union and others for exhibiting Soviet goods in Arab states.

The two sides will cooperate in the fields of water supply, irrigation, the reclamation of desert and semi-arid land for agricultural purposes and in establishing fishing projects in the Arab countries to help to increase food production, the communiqué added.

The two sides agreed on increasing the exchange of trade delegations and on cooperating in industrial technical training. It was agreed to hold the next board meeting in Moscow some time during 1984.

Britain makes relief contribution

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British government has made a contribution of nearly JD 5,000 to enable the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Jordan to undertake four rural and community development projects.

These projects are the construction of an irrigation channel at Al Mansoura village in Tafleeh

district; the provision of equipment for a day-care centre at Basira village also in Tafleeh district; the provision of equipment for the Al Faqa community development centre in Karak governorate; and the provision of handlooms for the Mustaba rural development society in Jerash district.

CRS has been active in developmental projects in Jordan since 1961. Working under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development, CRS is involved in a wide range of projects including nutrition education, olive seedling distribution and rural and community development.

The maestro's effortless fretwork gets most out of guitar and music

By Gamini Akmeemana
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — He looks rather like U.S. novelist John Steinbeck, the major difference being that Steinbeck did not have such a large, swept-back mane. But there is something about Maestro Gasbarri that immediately tells you that he is a distinguished musician.

There are many musicians who neither look distinguished, nor like musicians. But this Italian master of the guitar is the exception that proves the rule. At 48, he radiates depth to the point of being sombre.

Until he sits down to play that is. Then there is an almost unobtrusive but definite change of mood. It begins to respond to the music as the fingers travel deftly, almost casually, over the fretboard.

All this was obvious during his performances Saturday and Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre. Invited to Jordan to take part in the European Economic Community Spring Festival, Maestro Gasbarri surprised some with the way he played—surprisingly effortlessly, with relatively less movement of the hands than one sees in most classical guitarists—and yet getting the most out of the instrument as well as the music.

When the Jordan Times went to interview the maestro, he was

about to be filmed for television. There was an unexpected break because the sound engineer was having trouble. It happened several times, and the maestro was understandably getting exasperated.

"My friends call me Massimo," Maestro Gasbarri said while the television crew hurried to clear the disturbances. It came as a surprise, too, that his friends do not call him maestro. It would be a very appropriate christian name.

However that may be, the maestro has no false sense of modesty. He clearly likes the lavish praise, which is, after all, his due. "It's not easy being a musician," Maestro Gasbarri said without elaborating. For a moment, the mood changes from the sombre to the serene. And then, it is both. When asked if he comes from a musical family, the Maestro smiles.

"My father was a farmer," he says after a moment. His father died when he was only four, but the Maestro was given a guitar by his brother when he was 14.

Later, he studied at the Conservatorio S. Cecilia in Rome and at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena with Segovia and Diaz. Today, he teaches at the conservatorio of Naples. Is it easy to live with all the praise? Again, the maestro smiles. Perhaps it would be harder living without it.

The guitar he carries with him was built especially for him by two



Maestro Gasbarri

of his pupils. The maestro, who is married to a former pupil, kept glancing anxiously at the guitar, which he had left on a chair onstage near to where, the TV crewmen were prancing about. When warnings not to go near it were ignored, he had to go onstage and put it safely in its case.

"The guitar is an accident-prone instrument," Maestro Gasbarri said afterwards, adding that no-one ever uses his guitar except himself. And then, the sound engineer apparently satisfied, the filming started again. The auditorium was filled with the sound of a guitarist's poem, composed by Brazilian composer Hector Villa Lobos.

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Decision is correct

BY abandoning talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on joint political action for Middle East peace, Jordan has done the appropriate thing under the present circumstances. The decision, taken by an extraordinary cabinet session chaired by the King and attended by the crown prince, was made necessary to face facts as they are now not as some, or even all, of us here in Jordan and the Arab World would like them to be.

Jordan has always maintained, and continues to believe, that saving the land now under occupation and putting an end to Israel's expansionist plans on the rest of Arab land tops all Arab priorities at this stage, the reasons being clear to most of us. When talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and his colleagues, started last October, promised a solid course of action to be taken jointly by Palestinians and Jordanians, within the Arab consensus of course, in that direction, gloom gave way to hope that at long last a serious effort was underway to achieve that aim.

No-one said the process of regaining the occupied territories was going to be easy, but at least there was a feeling that unless risks were taken, nothing positive was going to happen and Israel would have all the time it needed to Judaize, irreversibly, what is left of the West Bank and Gaza. It was not only a Jordanian feeling. The Palestinians had it too, albeit to varying degrees.

We, in Jordan, must have thought that any risk was worth taking, provided that the Palestinians, as legitimately represented by the PLO, recognised the danger of not taking it and were prepared to support and participate in the effort for peace. After all, the alternative to trying was inaction and perhaps failure, given the limited options the Arabs had then and have now.

The story of what happened afterwards is perhaps long, but most of it is today known.

In any case, by abandoning the talks with the PLO, Jordan has not given up hope in, and will not withhold total support for, victory of the Palestinian cause. What Jordan is simply saying is that the last decision should rest with the Palestinians themselves and with the PLO, and they have it. Regardless of what others might think, Jordan's decision is correct.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Time for hesitation over

The only possible choice at the present for freeing the occupied Arab territories and their people from Israeli annexation and oppression is to deal with the realities of the situation as they actually exist. Those who want to help liberate these areas should stop procrastinating and move courageously without the slightest delay.

No one side can claim to be possession of the right to decide whether the rescue process is permissible or not. This process and its activation are an Arab national duty, which is of much greater importance and more significant than any possible differences existing within the Arab World. The occupied territories and their residents cannot be left subject to the will of Israel to implement its plans unchecked.

The liberation operation does not any party to take part in it, or even to approve of it. Yet, a sense of national responsibility should rule that everybody must refrain from doing anything that would hamper the rescue of the territories. The issue should not be made a subject for creating new divisions, and for introducing new difficulties that worsen the already bad situation in the Arab World.

It is not reasonable that any available opportunities to free the occupied areas are not made use of. Jordan has all along been the main source of support for our suffering people in the occupied territories, and it will continue to remain so.

Al Distour: Zionism surpasses itself

The world mass media Saturday relayed reports by American columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak of Time magazine to the effect that Israel was promoting West Bank land sales to American Jews. U.S. State Department spokesman John Hughes also made reference to this issue, among others, in his recent press conference.

The very idea of Israel selling other people's land to buyers from other continents is unprecedented in world history. It simply reflects the mentality and nature of the Zionist movement, which is a uniquely absurd racist movement. Not only the present Israeli practice of selling Palestinian land in the world market, but also the very basis of Zionist morality and values are alien to the spirit of our age and human civilisation.

Israel, provided with money and all sorts of destruction means, has always had an unassailable potential for occupying other people's land, and is liable at any time to launch new wars against other Arab countries. Nonetheless, Israel has not so far inflicted total defeat on the Arab Nation, and it will always be incapable of achieving such an aim. Indeed the time will come when the balance of forces will turn in the Arab's favour. Moreover, Israel has failed to convince world Jewry to keep emigrating to the Zionist state, and it seems the only way to attract some is through creating material inducements in the Arab occupied territories. It is first and foremost an Arab responsibility to see to it that such practices be stopped.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S.'s subtle change

Although the recent statements made by U.S. State Department spokesman John Hughes have a positive angle, in their entirety they amount to a retreat by the U.S. administration from an earlier more subtle attitude towards Israel's settlement policies. To say that the building of new settlements is an obstacle to peace, as phrased by Mr. Hughes, is a regression from the previous stand, which considered them illegal.

It is not only that they create new obstacles to the initiation of a new peace effort, but also their blatant violation of international laws and norms that make them repugnant. Moreover, the American stand towards settlements and Jordan's attitude towards the U.S.-sponsored peace are just not compatible. The building of settlements on usurped land is nothing but contrary to international law, regardless of whether Jordan joins the peace talks or not. These were not the sentiments of the latest American statements. Indeed it would be a great pity if the election fever has reached Mr. Hughes' throat.

DE FACTONOMICS

Our public sector has overexpanded

By T.A. Jaber

If you are told of a developing country where the public sector employs 42 per cent of its total labour force, plans to invest 50 per cent of total national investments through 22 ministries and 23 governmental departments, runs 43 public corporations, subscribes JD 130 million in the capital of 29 major business companies and other 20 regional and international enterprises, and fixes prices of almost all commodities and services, how would you classify such an economy among prevailing economic systems?

The country in question is Jordan which usually is referred to as a liberal economy. In the fifties and early sixties, the government played a constructive role of inducing industrial development in partnership with the private sector. Our private entrepreneurs were at that time favouring short-term and fast transactions particularly in the import trade. The inductive role of the government was needed and its response in establishing jointly business enterprise led to the first phase of Jordan's industrialisation.

With the resumption of Jordan's development in 1972, the government's economic weight and control increasingly expanded especially three areas of expansion are worth mentioning:

-- a. Continuation of the government's participation in major industrial projects in addition to the financing of infra-structural facilities of various kinds.

-- b. The establishment of new public corporations as a sign of institution-building. About 70 per cent of all public corporations, which employ 35 thousand employees, were established in the seventies and early eighties.

-- c. The snow-falling effect of government regulations which normally leads to an over-regulation of details as seen in price fixation.

It is true that our public sector did not grow out of confiscations and nationalisations as is the case in many developing countries, including Arab countries. However, the public sector has become a burden on the government itself and, at the same time, has overexpanded to an extent that our typically active private sector gets ever decreasing space within which it can move effectively. We have now reached a turning point where Jordan's policymakers should consider the right formula for our mixed economy. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has raised the question of the future nature and characteristics of the Jordanian economy. I am afraid that no adequate answer

to this crucial question has yet been given.

To avoid unnecessary misunderstanding, one has to be specific. Accordingly, I would like to submit the following propositions on rationalising the role of the public sector.

-- 1. Why should the government maintain its ownership of business companies which have existed more than ten years. The necessary inducement effect is no longer needed for these particular firms. Government's subscriptions should work as a revolving fund used to promote new productive activities and not necessarily to keep public ownership stagnant while additional funding is required from the government for new firms.

Partial governmental ownership of business firms should be subject to priority-setting. Which projects and what percentages of their shares should

the government keep? Why should the government own hotels or subscribe to dairy production for example? Why is a 51 per cent ownership in the potash industry needed, while 26 per cent or lower is deemed enough in the fertiliser and refinery industry? To what extent has the government's role in appointing -- directly or otherwise -- the general managers of certain firms affected these firms' profitability and operations.

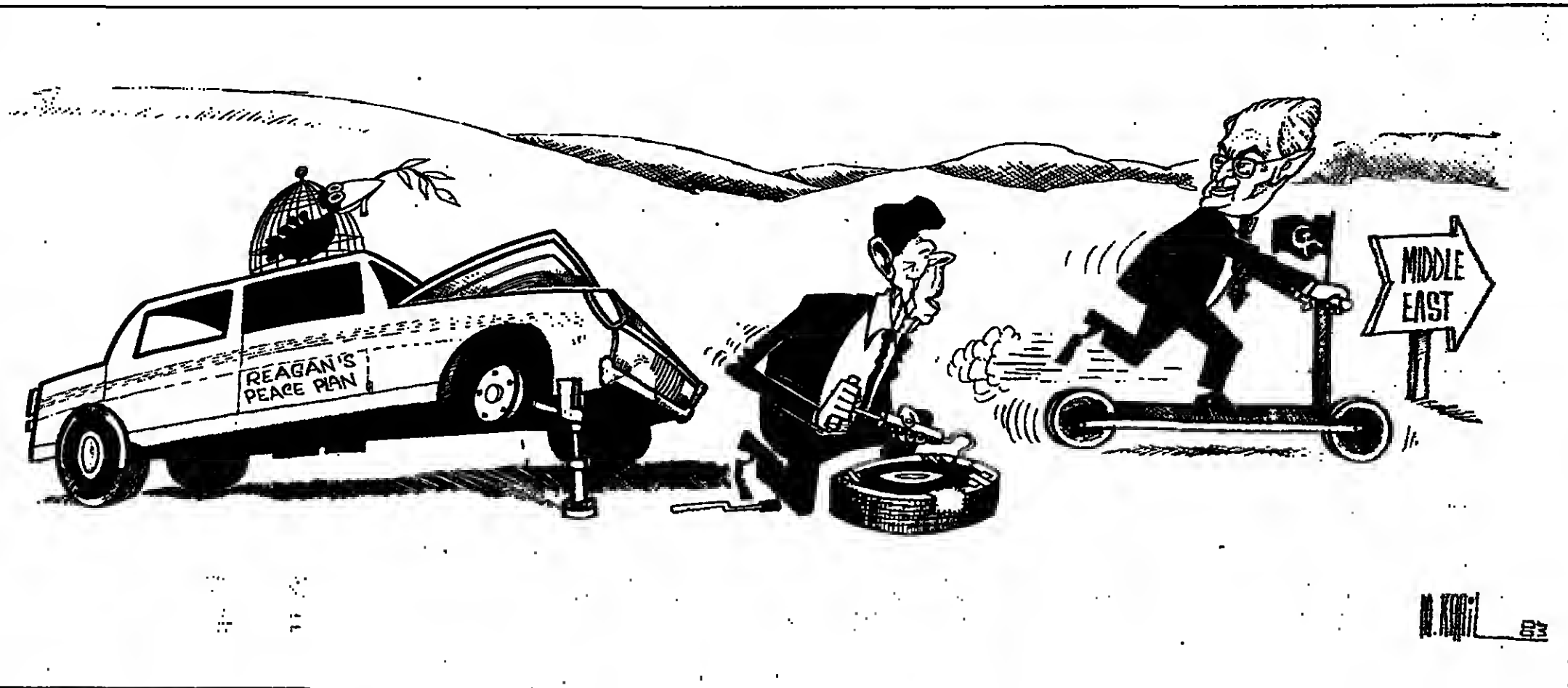
-- 2. Government shares should be sold to public corporations which hold portfolios such as the Social Security Corporation, the Pension Fund and the Postal Savings Fund. These corporations will decide later on what to keep and which shares to sell in accordance with their financial management.

-- 3. A process of de-regulation should be started,

particularly in pricing. Further delay means lost opportunities for economic activation of the private sector.

-- 4. Certain public corporations have a commercial character and are in other countries left to the private sector. Examples hereof are transport, electricity, hotels, telephones and others. Could we not open up some of these corporations to private partial participation in capital and management? It is worth trying.

Today, an expert group meeting starts in Amman under the co-sponsorship of the International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries and the Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences. It provides a timely opportunity to assess our experience and exchange views with Arab and international experts on the role of public enterprises.



Gloves are off for Britain's general election

By Barry May

Reuter

LONDON — Britain's next general election could come within three months or it might be more than a year away, but already the gloves are off for what promises to be a bruising, no-holds-barred campaign. Speculation is rife that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will call a snap election any time from June onwards and all the major political parties are behaving and responding to events as though the poll was imminent.

A foretaste of the tone of the coming campaign has emerged in the past few days. The Labour Party, the main alternative to the Conservative government, launched its most bitter personal attack against Thatcher since she was

elected prime minister in 1979. Opposition leader Michael Foot branded her the very symbol of modern conservatism, saying she represented the competitive system in its most callous manifestation. "She worships the profit motive, the money test. Nothing else, no other value in life, is allowed to count," he said. "She extols Victorian values, without even a passing comprehension of the human suffering and indignity which the mass of our people had to endure in that pre-democratic age."

Those words were written by Foot as the foreword to Labour's pre-election campaign document, a 15,000-word blueprint for turning Britain sharply to the left as the socialist state. It has been described as the most left-wing platform Labour has presented to the

British electorate since 1945.

Thatcher, soon to begin the final year of her five-year mandate, has told Conservative Party officials there could be no fudging of the choice between her government and the Labour opposition. Despite the emergence of a new third force in British politics in the form of a two-party Centrist Alliance, the choice to be put before electors has seldom been so stark.

Thatcher will be seeking endorsement of her right-wing administration's strategy of fighting inflation despite its side-effect of sharply increased unemployment. On the opposition side, the Labour Party will offer a virtually undiluted brew of socialist policies that will increase state intervention in British life.

Between them, the alliance of

Liberals and Social Democrats will try to break the two major parties' grip on government.

Opposition leaders have long recognised that their election offensive must be directed against Thatcher herself if they are to have any hope of defeating her government at the polls. "Either Labour destroys Margaret Thatcher's credibility, or Labour is sunk," says political commentator Brian Walden. Little more than a year ago she was the most unpopular prime minister in British history, according to opinion polls.

But her public esteem changed dramatically during the course of Britain's war last year with Argentina over the disputed Falkland Islands. She became, and remains, Britain's most presidential-style prime minister, the most dominating figure in British politics since Winston Churchill led the country to victory in World War II, political analysts say.

Through the Falklands war Thatcher's control of the cabinet was strengthened, talk of a possible challenger to her leadership within the Conservative Party was silenced, and other political leaders were overshadowed. The so-called Falklands factor, held to be the supposed reason for the government's popularity despite tough economic times, has given way to the Thatcher factor.

Thatcher, elected Europe's first woman prime minister on May 3, 1979, is on record as saying she would not even consider the next election until she is in the final year of her term. That period would coincide conveniently with local government elections on

May 5 which will be watched for signs of support for all the parties.

Although public opinion polls credit the Conservatives with a lead of up to 15 percentage points over the opposition, Thatcher is keeping her options open, according to sources close to her. It is evident she enjoys keeping everyone guessing about the date of the election and likes to tease by dropping hints to keep the game alive.

But she is also keenly aware of the repercussions of continuing uncertainty over the timing of the poll, particularly on foreign exchange markets where sterling has received a battering recently. That uncertainty bothered her, she confessed in a radio interview, and it would be a factor uppermost in her mind when she came to decide on the date.

Pakistan's Islamisation falls into hands of bigots?

Last November in Karachi a newly born child, abandoned by its parents, was stoned to death because it was presumed illegitimate. This anti-Islamic action (the Prophet Mohammad banned infanticide) was initiated by a maulvi (priest) who cast the first stone. Policemen looked on and made no arrests. This would seem a horribly clear indication that the process of Islamisation in Pakistan has taken a wrong turn away from reform towards prohibition and proscription.

President Zia Ul Haq's plan to Islamise Pakistan, both in its public and private life, is a grandiose, even a noble ambition and good has been achieved. It could be the best hope of holding the four disparate provinces of Pakistan together. But, increasingly, its implementation is falling into the hands of bigots, especially among the professional men of religion. Most of these are not ulama, men who are learned at least in theology, but maulvis, who are the equivalent of the parish priests of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Europe, whose superstitious ignorance was one of the prime causes of the reformation. The ultimate purpose of Islamisation must be to produce not just a Muslim state structure but a country of

good Muslim men and women. For the maulvis, goodness, on pain of damnation, is not doing this, not doing that, not doing the other: the state of mind that produced Europe's inquisition.

In some fields, Islamisation has done good. Thus, over three years, the compulsory collection of the Zakat (the tax has produced about \$150 m for distribution to the needy through 3,200 Zakat committees. The federal sharia court, under the enlightened guidance of Chief Justice Aftab Husain, has scrutinised the entire body of central laws and found very little repugnant to Islam; it should complete the body of provincial laws by the middle of next year. The court has also handed down some noteworthy judgements, such as the one made six months ago that women could serve as judges.

But in most ways Islam under the maulvis has come down hard on the majority of Pakistan's population, its women. A series of proposals have been made which, if implemented, would push the women of Pakistan right back to the pre-Islamic era. The two bodies most directly responsible for this possible retrogression are the Council of Islamic Ideologies, run as a one-man band by Mr. Tanzil

Ul Rahman, and the more recently constituted Social Reform Committee.

So far only one of the anti-women prohibitions has been implemented: the banning of women from taking part in public sporting events, such as the Asian Games in Delhi and Pakistan's own national games. This has been enforced even though Pakistani sportswomen said that they were prepared to abandon skimpy sportswear and to play (hockey especially) in trousers or the baggy shawl of Pakistan's national costume.

The next step backward came when Pakistan's consultative assembly, the Majlis-e Shura, amended the law of evidence to make the word of one male witness equivalent to that of two women. This is a distortion of a clear Koranic injunction, Sura 2, verse 282, states that "when you contract a debt for a fixed term" the terms of the agreement should be written down and witnessed by two men or by one man and two women "so that if either of them commit an error the other will remember". The Majlis has, however, said that, apart from cases in which the punishment is laid down in the Koran, "in other matters" (an unwarranted expansion of the

Koranic limitation to matters of debt) the witnesses should be two men or one man and two women or — but only exceptionally — one woman. When women in Lahore protested against this devaluation of their legal personality, they were charged by the police and 13 were injured.

The assembly recommendation now awaits Gen. Zia's signature to become an ordinance. If he signs, the floodgates could open to a large variety of anti-women proposals that the maulvi-minded have prepared: denying women the right to vote, or giving the female vote half the value of male one; denying them the right to drive cars (as in Saudi Arabia); halving the bloodmoney paid for a female victim compared with a male victim; the death penalty for prostitution but for the woman only, not for the male customer; a proposal to step up an all-female university as a start to segregation in all higher education (again as in Saudi Arabia). Because of Saudi money, the Saudi factor plays a retrogressive role in the Islamisation process everywhere in south and south-east Asia.

The women's fight against these maulvi chauvinist proposals is being led by an association of several women's groups called the

Women's Action Forum (WAF). The forum emphasises that it appreciates the need for modesty — no women's libbers they — but modesty is asked of men too. Women are not temptresses before whom males are helpless victims in need of protection by the law. The forum is careful to say that it is not politically involved. Yet it is politicking on matters of fundamental importance.

Fortunately for the women, many Pakistani men are on their side. But the women are doubtful of the support of the one Pakistani man who matters, Gen. Zia. Personally, he seems liberal-minded and the women of his own family are not restricted. He has said that women will not be force backwards. But, perhaps for political reasons, he has opened the door to the maulvis and, having let them into the political arena, seems unwilling or unable to send them back to the mosques where they belong.

The maulvis confine their anti-feminist attacks to members of the Women's Action Forum. They know that village women cannot be held back from going to work in the fields. But the maulvis, in their ignorance of the modern world, have not yet come to terms with a whole new sector of Pakistani

womenhood: the growing number of urban industrial workers who, from economic necessity, cannot accept to return to the kitchen. These women have already been unrecognised, under female leaders, and the WAF is trying to enlist them.

It is the educated Pakistani woman who is the maulvi's main enemy, and he attacks her by stigmatising her as "westernised". This is a singularly inappropriate epithet in Pakistan because the father of the nation, Jinnah, was westernised to the tip of his cigarette holder. On this matter of women's rights Jinnah said, "We are the victims of evil customs. It is a crime against humanity that our women are shut up within the four walls of the houses as prisoners."

Whose voice will Gen. Zia listen to? That of the father of the nation or that of the maulvis, for whom Jinnah had little time and less respect? It would be a tragic betrayal of Islamisation if, in its name, anti-woman prejudice were to set one half of the population against the other half. That would hardly accord with one of the most important sayings of the Prophet: "There is no compulsion in religion."

How much longer can Egypt live by the gift of the Nile?

Large areas of Egypt's desert have flourished with the increased irrigation available since completion of the Aswan High Dam in 1970. Yet excess water is now causing salinisation and waterlogging of cultivated land. A.T. Grove, Director of the African Studies Centre at the University of Cambridge, discusses the influence of the dam and the problems of water management facing Egypt.

Just 20 years ago Egypt was a good illustration of Malthus' dictum that while population increases geometrically, agricultural yields increase arithmetically.

The country's population had risen from less than 10 million at the beginning of the century to more than 25 million and was rising at over two per cent annually. The cultivated area had scarcely increased over the preceding century, though the construction of the Aswan Dam in 1902 and subsequent raising of its level had allowed a greater part of seasonal floodwaters to be stored for watering a second or third crop.

Agriculture had also become more intensive with the use of artificial fertilisers in large quantities, but agricultural production per head of population was falling and opportunities in other sectors of the economy were lacking. It is no wonder that Nasser saw the Saad Al 'Ali, the High Dam at Aswan, as a means of saving off disaster.

The High Dam was completed in 1970 after ten years of planning and construction with assistance from the USSR. It was intended to even out the annual variations in river discharge and promote maximum use of the total flow of the Nile by Egypt and Sudan. The Nile Waters Agreement had allowed Sudan to abstract only four cubic kilometres of water annually. In return for its agreement to the extension of the impounded lake into the Wadi Haifa region of the valley, in northern Sudan, it was agreed that Sudan's share of

Nile water should increase by 14.5 cubic kilometres while Egypt's annual share would be 55.5 cubic kilometres. It was estimated that about 10 cubic kilometres would be lost by evaporation from the lake.

With the great dam complete and the lake accumulating behind it, turbines were installed that today have a capacity of over 1000 MW. This is still only half the capacity for which provision had been made but the power is an important contribution to Egypt's energy requirements. The additional supplies of Nile water allowed the conversion of basins, flood cultivation in Upper Egypt to perennial canal irrigation, thereby effectively increasing the crop area. There was enough water to allow reclamation of land on the seaward side of the delta; the soils there are saline, but lavish watering and drainage works wash the salts out of the soils and allow crops of rice to be grown. New lands have been brought into cultivation outside the floodplain on the older, higher Pleistocene terraces, though difficulties are experienced in improving the texture of the sandy soils and the water has to be lifted as much as 30 metres by pumping.

The High Dam had other advantages. With its great storage capacity, about 168 cubic kilometres, it reduced the flood hazard in the Nile valley and successfully prevented high river discharges in 1967 and 1975 from ruining crops and damaging urban

areas. The drought of 1972-3 which affected so much of the desert marginal lands in Africa and when the flow of the Nile would have been little greater than in the disastrous year 1913-14 scarcely troubled the Egyptians; the canal water flowed as usual onto their lands, freely and apparently beneficially.

Some concern was being expressed about the silts brought down from Ethiopia being trapped in the lake behind the High Dam and no longer fertilising the cropland. As a result of the reduced particulate load of the river its banks and those of the main canals were being scoured; there was some coastal erosion along the front of the delta and the cropland was needing more artificial fertilisers. These consequences of the dam had been foreseen and accepted. A reduction in the catches of the sardine fisheries off the delta in the south-east Mediterranean had not been accurately predicted but catches of fish from Lake Nasser helped counterbalance this loss, at least on a national basis. The main concern of the Egyptian government up to this time had been with more pressing matters, namely the consequences of the Six Day War, in 1967, and the occupation by Israel of Sinai as far west as the Suez Canal. The canal towns were damaged, their industries in large part destroyed. Then came events of 1973, the worldwide rise in the price of oil, the reoccupation by Egypt of the east bank of the canal, and in later years of the rest of Sinai. As a result of these and associated events this last decade has seen many changes in Egypt, for better and worse.

In March last year, a working group of the International Geographical Union concerned with

the management of drylands, met at Al Minya University 200 kilometres south of Cairo. Its chairman was Professor Mensching of Hamburg University, the subject under consideration was irrigated lands and one of its sessions was devoted to the Nile valley. A number of contributions from Egypt and Sudanese geographers and also from agriculturalists at Al Minya University focused attention on recent developments in Egypt.

With the current abundance of water made available by the High Dam, the annual rate of application to irrigated land has greatly increased. In consequence the level of ground-water has risen bringing the capillary zone within reach of the surface and resulting in the precipitation of salts in the surface layers of the soil. The process has been accelerated by the increased dissolved load in Nile water after its storage in Lake Nasser and its concentration as a result of evaporation losses. Formerly the deposition of silt helped maintain soil structure and nutrient status. Now the silt collects on the floor of the southern third of the great lake, Lake Nubia, as it is called, in the Sudan.

With two or three crops a year being grown and the land under almost continuous cultivation, damage by pests and diseases is on the increase and the cost of controlling them is steadily mounting. Before long cotton-growing in Egypt may no longer be worthwhile because of the costs of spraying and importing pesticides.

The dangers of salinisation are not confined to the ancient cultivated lands of the Nile Valley. The application of excessive quantities of water is also having deleterious effects in the New Valley, comprising the oasis depressions of Kharga, Dakhla, Farafra and

Bahariya. They are quantitatively of minor importance in the Egyptian scene viewed as a whole. Their populations number only 120,000; their cultivated land is 0.7 per cent of the national total. In the 1950s and 1960s, however, great hopes were expressed about their future contribution to the wealth of the nation, hence the name New Valley.

The floors of the depressions, which occupy tens of thousands of square kilometres, were to be irrigated from enormous quantities of groundwater stored in the Nubian Sandstone that underlies the Western Desert. The formation outcrops far to the south-west in the Eridi and Ennedi highlands in the north-east of Chad, and declines gently to below sea-level in the vicinity of the Nile delta and the Mediterranean coast. The rate of recharge at the present day must be very low, for even the southern outcrops of the aquifer are well within the arid zone. But the sandstones have a high porosity of somewhere between ten and 20 per cent and they thicken from about 300 metres beneath Kharga to more than 1000 metres in the vicinity of Bahariya, so the volume stored in the underground reservoir, charged with water in wetter periods of the Quaternary, is roughly equivalent to the discharge of the Nile into Egypt over about a century. With present rates of abstraction being little more than one third of a cubic kilometre per year there is room for much increased exploitation without important regional lowering of the water-table taking place.

In spite of the modest scale of irrigation at present in the New Valley — the total cultivated area there is believed to be no greater than it was at the beginning of the century — severe management

problems are emerging. Large numbers of high-yielding boreholes have been drilled at great expense over the past two decades, some fully artesian, some requiring pumping. The water is not very saline, the total dissolved salt concentration being similar to that of Nile water, about 300 ppm. However, the salts include sulphates which corrode pipes and pumps, leading to the breakdown of equipment. More to the point, the water flows night and day in quantities which are not being taken up by the land.

It is an extremely dramatic experience to drive 200 kilometres across Pliocene limestone separating the Nile valley at Asyut from the Kharga depression. On this plateau where the mean annual rainfall is measured in tenths of a millimetre there is no vegetation, only wind-scoured white rock. Then comes the rapid 300-metre descent down a scarp to the floor of the depression where date palms thrive, locally, and lines of amariak and casuarina shelter fields of wheat and tomatoes.

The oases are threatened by ranks of barchans driven southwards by the wind. But the main hazard is presented by an excess of water that deposits salt in the sandy soils and collects in the lowest parts of the depression just where the best soils occur, those derived from the lakes that were quite extensively developed in wetter periods of the Quaternary.

There are many problems associated with the extension of the irrigated area in the New Valley, but date palms and other crops will thrive there and more areas would be brought under cultivation if more capital were available. Whether the returns on the capital would be satisfactory is another matter. Transport costs

are high and markets are distant. Disease hazards for crops and people are not as great as in the Nile valley, but the demand for land is limited and labour is scarce.

Labour shortage is not something one expects to find in Egypt above all places, but it exists, not only in the New Valley but in the Nile valley too. Wages are low, from about \$1 for a day's work on a state farm to three times that amount on a privately-owned citrus and grape plantation.

Where has the labour gone? The answer is to Cairo and the Arab oil states. Greater Cairo is growing at a tremendous rate. It is now not only the biggest city in Africa but one of the biggest cities in the world with a population which is estimated at between 12 and 15 million, out of a national population of 45 million. Every year tens of thousands of people flooded in from the countryside so that it becomes more and more congested.

New towns have been started, the canal towns attract many immigrants, but Cairo is the main target internally. In addition it is estimated that four million Egyptians have emigrated, possibly as many as half of these in Iraq. Their subventions help to support the Egyptian economy together with expenditure from the rest of the Arab World. These funds are mainly directed towards Cairo and thereby provide a livelihood for people who would otherwise be available for work on the land.

People would rather live in the city. Egyptian youths who have been to school and served in the army are not content to return to the traditional role as fellahin, to work in the fields from dawn to dusk as labourers on a rich man's

farm or on their own small plots. They prefer to take their chance in the city and will continue to do so as long as government controls prices of crops at level that depress wages.

Egypt has so much water it does not know what to do with it. To prevent disastrous flows down the Nile valley from Lake Nasser, which is now reaching its peak level, work is in progress on a scheme to lead water westwards by a 25-km-long spillway into the Toshka depression. This in turn leads into the Kharga depression and so new dams may have to be constructed to prevent the New Valley receiving a flood of surface water.

Egypt is becoming less dependent on agriculture and more dependent on industry. It has oil enough for its own needs. It has resources such as rock phosphates and iron-ore in abundance. It is the Arab country that can most effectively use the funds made available by Middle East oil.

But unless it improves the management of the water resources made available by modern technology and improves the drainage of irrigated land its agricultural base may be ruined.

One contributor to the workshop at Al Minya, Dr. Fouad Ibrahim who teaches in the University of Bayreuth in West Germany, went so far as to suggest that it may become necessary to dismantle the High Dam and cultivate the silts that have been deposited on the floor of Lake Nasser.

This is scarcely thinkable, but the fact remains that solutions to the problems created by the Dam have to be found and effectively applied or Egypt will no longer live by the gift of the Nile; the Nile will be Egypt's sorrow.

Third World's problems need better understanding by the West

By John Madeley

One of the most persistent questions development workers ask themselves is whether the message they are preaching is getting through to the people they are working for. Not much attention is paid, however, to whether people in the developed world properly understand what life in the Third World is like.

The British have an abiding faith in education and its ability to uplift people's lives, so that a frequent question at public lectures on development issues is: "Don't you think we should do more to educate these people in the developing countries?"

The obvious insult — the implication that "we" in the West have all the answers and the Third World needs to be told about them — is obviously unintentional, but it is symptomatic of a deeper problem that exists in Britain and other western countries. Despite the coverage and the talk about development issues, people of these nations have a woefully distorted view of what life in the Third World is like. Most continue to believe that people there are generally wallowing in gutters, close to the edge of starvation — and waiting for outside aid or education to inject new hope into their lives.

Clearly, the message is not getting through. The image of developing nations as being incompetent and totally dependent on outside help is pervasive enough to pose major obstacles on the road to global co-operation. If one group of people has an inferior image about another, then there is little chance of building a constructive relationship. As North-South issues are likely to assume critical importance in the face of intensifying world tensions, getting the correct message through is of no small importance.

Part of the difficulty in getting the message through is the manner in which the ordinary person learns about the Third World. The newspapers, magazines, radio, TV and films through which most people pick up their ideas of the rest of the world generally only report violence, sudden political changes and socio-economic problems in the developing world.

Thereby reinforcing earlier colonial prejudices, about the inferiority of "subject races". Advertisements in the media appealing for funds following natural disasters or human atrocities also inadvertently project the image of non-self-sufficient, non-self-reliant and basically violent Third World.

In fact, so minimal is the general understanding of the world that a 1977 survey by the research organisation Schlackmanns on British attitudes towards overseas development discovered that of those interviewed: "As many thought that the Third World had something to do with UFO's and space travel as thought it had to do with poverty."

But even amongst those whom one would consider well-informed and concerned, the perception of their relationship with the Third World is "one way". They have something to offer; but they are too little aware that they can receive something valuable from the people of the developing world. The links that irrevocably bind the South and the North never seem very clear. For example, few people in Britain are aware that most of their food comes, one way or another, from the Third World.

Even fewer know that the standard of living they enjoy is a consequence in part of the rock-bottom prices the developing countries are earning for their commodities.

So the concept of interdependence, and of the Third World's desire for a recognition of this and of a more equal partnership in the exploiting and sharing of the world's resources, remains a secret to the average Briton.

Ironically, some of the very organisations which are committed to promoting the ideals of harmony and equality of the world's people contribute unintentionally to the problem. To raise funds, it helps if they communicate something of the Third World's suffering — but that also reinforces the negative images.

Derek Walker, Director of the London-based Centre for World Development Education, says that aid agencies are aware that to ask for help builds up the image in the public's mind of a dependence relationship. Oxfam's Appeals Manager, Sam Clarke, says that his organisation tries to undo any initial misconceptions created in any appeals drive by discussing the whole development issue with supporters through their mailing

programme, so that they become better informed.

But does Third World suffering always need to be stressed? The Belgian organisation, Centre National du Co-operation au Développement, an umbrella group for several overseas aid agencies, seems to raise money successfully with messages about development which give a well-rounded picture of Third World communities. The co-ordinator of one European aid group, which has members in all West European countries, places Belgium and Holland at the top of the European list of populations that have a reasonably balanced view of the Third World, and respond well to informative advertising, thanks in no small part to the quality of this advertising.

These two countries apart, he feels that the situation in the rest of Western Europe is rather similar to Britain's. Awareness in the Scandinavian countries is probably marginally better than in Britain, but in France and West Germany it is about the same or even worse.

The picture, however, is not all bleak. "Small sectors of well-informed people, with a reasonably well-balanced view of the Third World, have grown bigger in recent years in Britain, especially in the churches," says Derek Walker. "Among young people there is a much higher level of knowledge than there used to be."

A further "seed of hope" is that part of the media in Britain is becoming aware of the distortion of the Third World message and has started to make a determined effort to correct it. Television programmes especially have taken up this challenge, a factor of some importance as most people glean their information from this medium.

An example of good communication recently seen on British television screens is a six-part programme called "Two Way Ticket", written by Sarah Hobson. Children from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mauritania, Norway, Peru and the Scottish Hebrides showed British viewers the kind of life they lead, and the series made a remarkable impact. It is not often people in Britain get the chance to see Third World people — children in this case — as they really live.

Another television programme to make an impact in Britain was a two-hour documentary, shown the day before New Year's eve 1981, called "Global Report."

This was billed as an "alternative account of 1981." Made with the help of UNICEF and the New Internationalist magazine, the film told the story of 1981 through the eyes of five people in different developing countries. The impact made by the film can be judged by the fact that the programme was jointly awarded the United Nations Association (UK section) Media Peace Prize, which is awarded annually to the person, programme or association, that does most in the media "to contribute best to international understanding and harmony."

A further hope for an improved image getting across in Britain is the start of the new television channel 4, which will feature programmes for an organisation called the International Broadcasting Trust. This has been jointly established by aid agencies to help communicate Third World issues. Its first three programmes will enable people in Kenya and Mozambique to talk about their lives. The next three programmes will focus on the Caribbean.

"The picture that people in Britain often have of the Third World is one of a place where things always go wrong," says IBT General-Secretary, Hugh Bayley.

"We hope that our programmes will help to contribute to a better understanding."

The message that is struggling to get across in Britain is one of the people in the developing world striving, often against enormous odds, to get on top of their problems, wanting the western world to understand those problems first, and give financial help second, should it come as a result of the increased understanding. If people in the West can see more of the process of development, they are more likely to respond. The response may come by way of giving the structure of commodity trade, of international financial arrangements, or of the profits of multinational companies, which all contribute to depriving these countries of a fair share of income.

1983 is World Communication Year. It badly needs to be a year which marks the start of a new era in communicating the correct Third World picture to the West. Only if an accurate message comes across is there any hope of developing a genuine global community.

John Madeley is a journalist specialising in development issues.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:50 Cartoons
18:05 Children's Programme
18:35 Sport
18:55 Muppet Show
19:20 Programmes Review
19:30 Armed Forces Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:40 Arabic Varieties
22:10 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
20:30 Comedy: Taxi — On the Job
21:10 Smiley's People
22:00 News in English
22:15 Music in Time: Today and Tomorrow

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:10 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Picnic Time
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumental, Old Favorites
17:00 News Summary
18:35 Musical, Vegetable, Musical
19:00 News Summary
19:05 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
22:00 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsday 06:30 The World of

Ukraine 06:45 Letter from London

06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News
07:05 Twenty-Four Hours News Summary
07:30 The Golden Age of Opera
07:45 Portraits of Our Times 08:00
Newsday 08:30 Baker's Hall Ozone
09:00 World News 09:05 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary 09:30 Comment
Performance 09:50 World News
10:00 World News 10:05 World News
10:10 World News 10:15 World News
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VOICE OF AMERICA

KHz 1260, 5965, 7200, 15205, 11725

05:00 Daybreak 06:00 The Breakfast
Show 17:00 News Roundup: Reports,
Actualities, News Summary 17:30 VOA
Magazine Show: Americana, Science,
Listeners' letters 18:00 Special English
News 18:10 Special English Science and
Technology Report 18:15 Feature: This
is America 18:30 Music USA: Standards
19:00 News Roundup 19:30 Dateline
20:00 Special English News 20:10 Science
and Technology 20:15 This is
America 20:30 Music USA: Standards

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

"Les Murs Peints" at the French Cultural Centre.

* By Vincent Clark at ACOR has been postponed till Wednesday.

LECTURE

* French pianist Eric Bercot performs at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

CONCERT

* French pianist Eric Bercot performs at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 661 0267
American Centre 41520
British Centre 361 47-3
French Cultural Centre 41993
Goethe Institute 24049
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hajj Arts Centre 665195
Hussien Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84355

MUSEUMS

Fallahs Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mummies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Ofa (Cliffed Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzaynah, Jabal Luwaidh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m.

1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30124.

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lease Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Lease Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Rotary Club of Amman. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwaidh, 37440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussien, 661757.

Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 43453.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71351.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 72521.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.

Amman International Church (inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsi, 665249.

PRAYER TIMES

03:44 Fair

05:10 (Shawar) Shawar

11:37 Dhruv

15:13 'Asr

18:03 Maghreb

19:27 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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ARRIVALS</

SPORTS

Rosberg wins in champion style

BRANDS HATCH, England (R) — Keke Rosberg of Finland gave a demonstration of the determination which took him to last year's world title as he achieved a narrow triumph over Formula One newcomer Danny Sullivan of the United States in the Race of Champions here Sunday.

Rosberg had to battle against badly blistered tyres which affected the handling of his Williams considerably as he held off the Tyrrell of Sullivan for much of the last half of the 40 lap (168.24 km) non-championship race.

Sullivan, having only his third Formula One outing, tried everything he knew to overtake Rosberg but the campaign-hardened Finn held him off.

Less than half a second separated the pair at the finish and their exciting duel took them well ahead of former world champion Alan Jones of Australia, third in an Arrows.

Sullivan, 33, from Louisville, Kentucky, has certainly made an immediate impact in Formula One.

He finished 11th in the season-opening Brazilian Grand Prix, improved to eighth at Long Beach two weeks ago and should now have the confidence to score his first championship points in next Sunday's French Grand Prix at le Castellet.

Rosberg certainly rates the American: "He's just right for Formula One," he said.

Asked if he thought the tyre problem could have led to a puncture and cost him dearly, the Finn replied: "I have experienced blistered tyres before and they have not punctured so I did not expect any punctures this time."

Sullivan said: "I thought I might have passed him when his tyres started blistering, but he was too good for me."

The Rosberg-Sullivan scrap made amends for the small entry—only 13 cars instead of the normal 26 for a Grand Prix began the race.

Jones almost became the first retiree as his car was rammed from behind on the first corner.

As it turned out, the 36-year-old Australian, driving only his second Formula One event since returning from retirement, was never seriously in contention on the track where he won the 1980 British Grand Prix.

"I felt pretty good out there, even though someone hit me from behind moments after the start," said Jones.

Rene Arnoux, driving the lone Ferrari, led for the first six laps but Rosberg swept past as the Frenchman experienced the first of a series of mechanical problems which forced him down the field and into eventual retirement.

Briton John Watson, the winner at Long Beach, also went out when his McLaren developed transmission trouble, as did compatriot Nigel Mansell with an ill-handling Lotus.

The spirit team made an inauspicious debut. The car's Honda engine blew up at the end of the fifth lap and Swedish driver Stefan Johansson coasted into the pits.

Cuba's amateur boxers outclass U.S.

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's amateur boxers outclassed the United States here Saturday, recording a record victory of 12 bouts to nil.

Only in the last fight, between super heavyweights Jorge Gonzalez of Cuba and Gray Payne of the United States, did the Americans come close to a win.

The stocky 21-year-old from Michigan downed Gonzalez for a count of eight in the first round before he himself hit the canvas in the second, eventually losing with a badly cut eye in the same round.

The previous bouts were a near monotonous parade of American guts against the class and experience of the Cubans who had four world champions on show.

The visitors, ranked number two in the world to Cuba, were badly weakened by the absence of several of their top fighters through injury.

The latest blow to their hopes of halting a run of eight successive Cuban victories in tournaments between the two countries came Thursday night when Mark Bre-

land, the world welterweight champion from Brooklyn, was ruled out because of a hand injury.

The experienced Cubans, many of them Olympic veterans in their late 20s, allowed few of their youthful opponents to settle and five of the bouts ended before the final bell.

Light-welterweight Carlos Garcia scored probably the most spectacular knock-out when his swinging right hook sent Henry Hughes sprawling in the first round.

U.S. officials later complained that the blow was struck after the referee had called break.

The home squad which has dominated world amateur boxing for almost a decade showed a wide variety of styles in defeating their old rivals—from the rapid-fire combinations of featherweight Adolfo Horta to the clumsy but effective aggression of middleweight Jose Gomez.

Only three of the visitors managed a good enough show to avoid unanimous points defeats—lightweight Clifford Gray, welterweight Ron Esset and middleweight Virgil Hill.

The partisan crowd of 14,000 took wild delight in the crushing defeat of representatives of their country's main political foe but they also rose in acclaim for Payne's plucky performance in the final bout.

Professional sports are banned in Cuba and the communist authorities have concentrated on building up successful amateur teams such as the boxing squad.

Sporting events like Saturday's tournament are virtually the only contact Cuba has with the United States following President Reagan's ban on almost all American visits.

Alcides Sagarra, Cuba's chief boxing coach, said the match would benefit his team mainly in its preparations for the pan-American games in August and the Los Angeles Olympics next year.

"But our basic aim was to win at least eight bouts today," he said, referring to Cuba's 8-4 defeat of the United States in Reno last year, one of the closest scores since the series began in 1977.

Pitman looks ahead to more National success

LIVERPOOL, England (R) — Jenny Pitman allowed herself a few tears and the congratulations of friends and strangers alike.

But after becoming the first woman trainer to saddle a winner in the Aintree Grand National steeplechase here—the most spectacular horse race in the world—she refused to dote on success.

The champagne corks were still winging through the air and Corbiere, the eight-year-old gelding whose triumph had carried her into the history books, was still panting hard.

Behind the smiles and victory hugs Pitman was already planning next year's win—and another year after that.

"I want to do a Red Rum and win this race three times," she declared. "We've had Corbiere since he was a two-year-old and always knew he was going to be a chaser."

"He's got short, strong legs—strong enough to pull a cart," she added.

Those who witnessed the style of Corbiere's triumph will have little doubt the horse will figure prominently in next year's spectacle, should the 270-acre Aintree course with its 16 fearsome fences be saved from the developers' bulldozers.

The appeal fund still needs aro-

und £1,000,000 (\$1,500,000) by May 1 to buy the course from its present owner Bill Davies and secure the future of one of the world's greatest sporting events.

If the £4,000,000 (\$6,000,000) target is not reached in the next three weeks, Corbiere will become even more famous—as the last horse ever to win the gruelling race.

Should that happen, at least Corbiere proved himself worthy of being remembered as the last Grand National champion.

Ridden brilliantly by 21-year-old Ben de Haan, the Welsh Grand National winner did not put a foot wrong, taking up the running two fences out and holding off the challenge of Michael Cunniffham's Irish-trained Greenapoint to win by three-quarters of a length.

Yer Man, an 80-1 outsider, finished a long way back in third with Halo Dandy, the race leader for a long time, fourth and Grifter, last year's winner and this year's favourite fifth.

Only 10 of the 41 starters crossed the line. The non-finishers included much fancied Bonem Omen, Spartan Missile and King Spruce, ridden by Joy Carrier, widely expected to become the first woman jockey to win the race.

Morgan leads U.S. golf

AUGUSTA, Georgia (R) — Gil Morgan duly parred the final two holes Sunday morning to lead the U.S. Masters golf tournament by one stroke with a seven-under-par total of 137.

Morgan, who was among six golfers still on the course Saturday when darkness halted play, finished with a 70 as the sun finally shone on the rain-soaked Augusta national course.

Spain's Severiano Ballesteros also scored a 70 after matching par at the 18th to hold second place on 138, one better than Ray Floyd and Keith Fergus with Britain's Nick Faldo and Jodie Mudd another shot back.

Floyd also parred the 17th and 18th to complete a 72, while Fergus completed his round Saturday with a 69 against a 68 for Mudd and a 70 for Faldo.

Jim Hallett became the only amateur to survive the cut with a par at the last for a 73 and an

aggregate of 141, one better than Arnold Palmer and Jack Renner who both bogeyed the 18th. Palmer shot a 74 and Renner a 75.

Morgan's routine finish set the cut for the final two rounds at 147, eliminating Britain's Sandy Lyle.

1979 runner-up Ed Sneed and Larry Nelson on 143, Bobby Clampett and Curtis Strange on 149, and three-times champion Gary Player of South Africa on 151.

A total of 49 players qualified for the last two days of the tournament, which will end Monday after a day-long downpour closed the course on Friday.

The rain softened the fast greens, making them easy targets for approach shots which would stick where they plopped down. However, the 6,905-yard course was playing even longer than usual, increasing the odds in favour of the big hitters.

Rob de Castella out-races top-class field at Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM (R) — Australian Rob de Castella comprehensively out-raced a top-class field to win the Rotterdam city marathon here Saturday and establish himself as the world's leading runner over the 42.195-km distance.

De Castella finished in two hours eight minutes and 37 seconds, two seconds ahead of Portugal's Carlos Lopes with veteran Mexican Jose Gomez third in 2:12.37.

Despite the ideal conditions and the flat course de Castella's time was 24 seconds slower than the world's best held by Alberto Salazar.

But more significantly he beat the hitherto unbeaten American-born Cuban into fifth place in what will probably be the last clash between the world's two fastest marathoners before next year's Los Angeles Olympics.

Britain's John Graham set the early pace, dropping out at the halfway stage, leaving de Castella in the lead.

Armand Parmentier of Belgium came in fourth, just before Salazar, with a time of 2:09:57. Salazar recorded a disappointing 2:10:08 and was struggling after the 35-km mark.

Before the race Salazar said he believed he could break two hours eight minutes Saturday and predicted that the marathon could be run in a time of two hours five minutes. But afterwards he looked

pale and refused to be interviewed.

De Castella, remarkably relaxed after the race, said his battle with Lopes had made it a very hard finish.

"The pace was very quick early on, then it slowed down dramatically. For the last five kms the going was very fast, very intense," he said.

"I was really surprised. I looked around and there was a group of six, then I looked again and Carlos was the only one with me."

Connors defeats Borg

TOKYO (Agencies) — Current world number one, Jimmy Connors of the United States outplayed Sweden's Bjorn Borg 6-3, 6-4, in the final of a four-man \$250,000 exhibition tennis tournament here Sunday.

Connors outplayed Borg in 90 minutes before a sellout crowd of some 15,000 fans, including Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko and Swedish Ambassador to Japan, Gunnar Larsson.

Japan's Tokashiki makes 5th successful title defence

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Katsuo Tokashiki made the fifth successful defence of his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-flyweight title here Sunday night—but only just.

His 15-round bout against Mexican challenger Lupe Madera ended in a draw, a result which prompted Madera's manager Erik Gernon to say that he would protest to the WBA over the decision.

"I had my man ahead by three points at the finish," he said. "I think just about everyone here thought Madera won."

American referee Larry Rozadilla scored the bout 145-143 in favour of Tokashiki. Judge Fernando Viso of Venezuela had Madera ahead 145-144 and Judge Cesar Ramos of Puerto Rico scored the bout even 144-144.

Madera took the initiative from the bell, throwing numerous good punches to the champion's head and body.

He won the first two rounds, but Tokashiki began to get to grips with his opponent in the third.

The challenger suffered a cut on his forehead following an exchange of blows in the fourth round and it continued to bleed profusely throughout a grimly fought contest.

Tokashiki, who was warned by the referee for elbowing his opponent in the 12th round, also ended the fight with his face blood

spattered after his nose bled heavily in the final round.

Both Tokashiki, who has a ring record of 18 wins, two draws and one defeat, and Madera, who has won 34 and drawn two of his 48 bouts, weighed in at 108 pounds.

Within minutes of the fight ending Madera's manager lodged a protest with WBA Vice-President Ramos Yordan of Puerto Rico and said he would request a rematch.

TV dispute threatens Las Vegas Grand Prix

BRANDS HATCH, England (R) — The Las Vegas Grand Prix motor race on Oct. 9 will not be held unless television coverage is guaranteed, Bernie Ecclestone, President of the Formula One Constructors' Association, said here Sunday.

The American network's reluctance to screen Formula One racing because it does not appear to boost ratings has prompted Ecclestone to look elsewhere for countries willing to host the World Championship series — and televise them.

Ecclestone said the Formula One teams were considering resurrecting the Mexican and Japanese Grand Prix next year and also looking ahead to the possibility of adding Australia, Saudi Arabia and even China to the list of venues.

"We want to run a World Championship," he said, "and we are prepared to consider going any-

where to do so."

"If promoters can't run races and make a profit we can do it ourselves."

Ecclestone said that if Las Vegas is cancelled — the hotel car park circuit joined the Grand Prix list only two years ago — then the end-of-season South African Grand Prix scheduled for Kyalami on Oct. 29 would be brought forward three weeks.

Argentina upsets W. Germany in world hockey

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Argentina, seeded 11th in the fifth women's World Cup hockey tournament, created a major upset when they defeated fancied Germany 1-0 in their Group B game Sunday.

The fleet-footed Argentines outplayed the Germans with their brilliant stickwork plus good combination play and were rewarded

with a goal in the 15th minute by forward Veronica Alfonso.

The star of the game was Argentine goal-keeper Laura Mulhall who through her keen anticipation brought off many good saves from the Germans' penalty corner shots.

Germany had a chance to equalise in the 28th minute when they were awarded a penalty stroke after Argentinian keeper Mulhall brought down left-winger Martina Koch. Koch, however, shot wide.

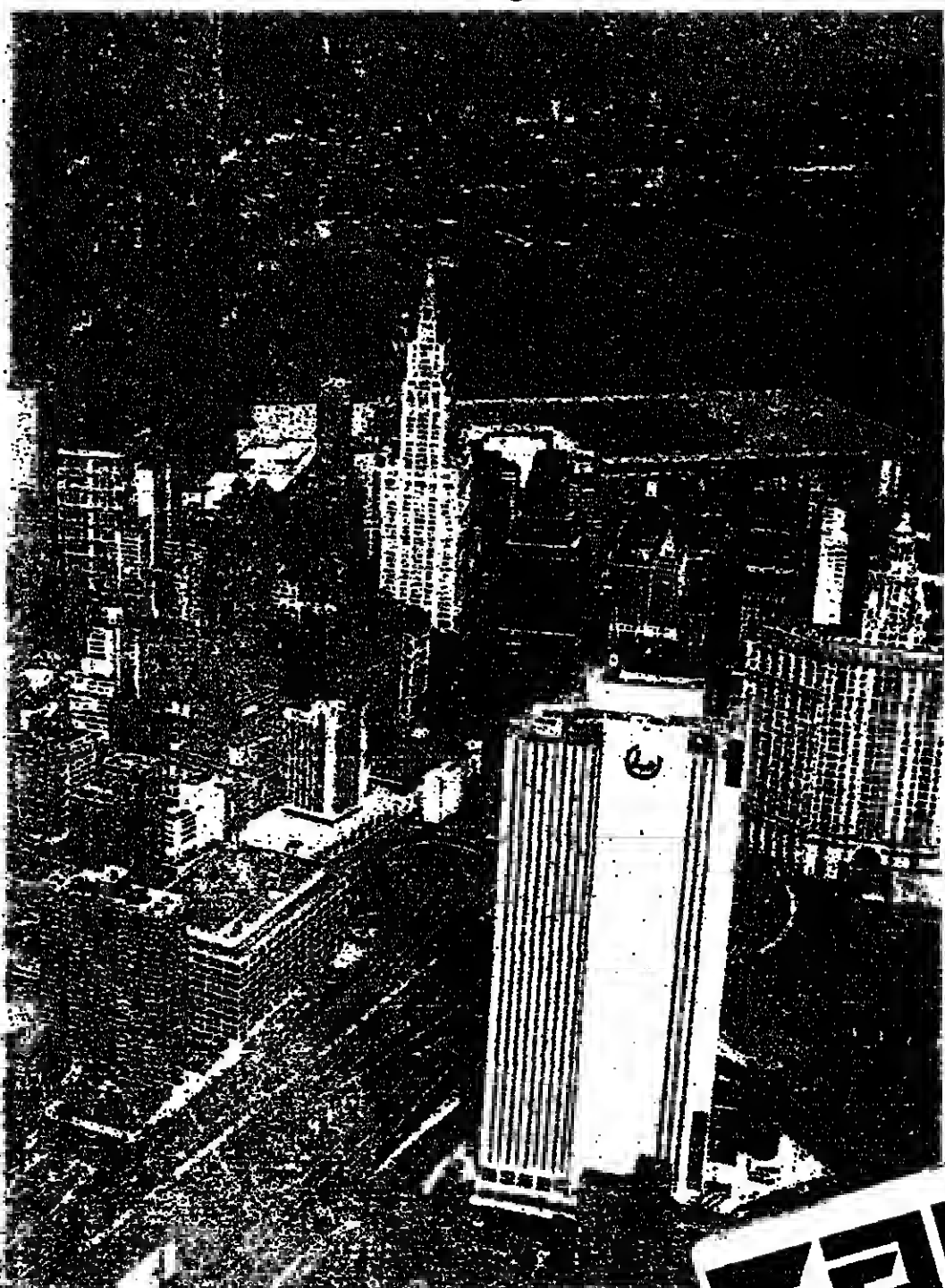
The United States, unhappy with their fifth seeding in the tou-

rnament despite their third placing in the 1979 World Championships, began with a convincing 3-0 win over eighth seeds Scotland.

The Australians, who did not perform impressively in their warm-up games, displayed their strong point in penalty corner conversions by beating a sluggish Welsh team 5-1.

Top seeds Netherlands had a bolder fight in their opening game against bottom seeds India but managed to beat the Indian team 2-1.

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ECONOMY

Major oil companies accept proposed North Sea prices with reservations

LONDON (A.P.) — The British National Oil Corp. (BNOC) is to announce on Monday that its major customers for North Sea crude have accepted its proposed price cuts, industry sources said on Saturday.

Both Esso, the British subsidiary of Exxon, and Shell U.K. Ltd. expressed reservations, though. Neither British Petroleum (B.P.), 39 per cent owned by the British government, nor Gulf Oil had yet announced acceptance but B.P. is widely expected to fall into line along with other smaller companies. Tracental was still negotiating with BNOC, the sources said.

Under British law, the state-owned BNOC purchases North Sea crude from the companies drilling there and then sells it back at agreed prices.

BNOC on Feb. 18 proposed cutting the price of North Sea crude to \$30.50 a barrel from \$34.50, retroactive to Feb. 1. None of the major customers agreed Nigeria which produces much the same high grade as North Sea crude immediately slashed its price to \$30 a barrel.

The price-cutting led to a 12-day meeting in London of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which finally agreed on March 14 to cut the benchmark price for Saudi Arabian light crude to \$29 a barrel.

BNOC with OPEC accord proposed setting up a two-tier price system of \$30 a barrel for crude from the Brent Field where both Shell and Esso are engaged and \$29.75 for the rest of North Sea oil.

Since then, prices of North Sea crude have risen sharply on the Rotterdam spot market to over \$29 a barrel.

Both Esso and Shell objected to the two-tier system which they felt put them at a competitive disadvantage.

Shell said in a statement it would lift its contracted oil for February, March and April, but Esso only mentioned February and March. Neither company said what will happen later.

It was not clear, meanwhile, whether BNOC has found customers for their North Sea crude oil on the Rotterdam market, especially when Gulf has refused to buy its 100,000 barrels a day contracted oil since early February.

During the OPEC meeting here, B.P. attacked the new price set for Saudi crude, saying the \$29 price would not hold because of the world glut of oil. Spokesmen for B.P., Shell and Gulf said they thought prices should be lower.

Whether the rise of spot market prices since then will convince them differently remains to be seen.

B.A. launches £25 million worldwide image campaign

LONDON (R) — State-owned British Airways (B.A.) Sunday launched a new worldwide advertising campaign costing £25 million (\$37 million) in its first year.

The drive was launched with a six-minute television commercial which showed samples of new commercials which chairman Sir John King said would be shown in 30 countries.

British Airways' new slogan "the world's favourite airline" created by London-based agency Saatchi and Saatchi, is based on its claim to carry more international passengers to more countries than any other carrier, an airline spokesman said.

The airline currently carries about 16 million people annually to about 70 countries. Several American airlines fly twice that number and the Soviet state Aeroflot system takes more than 100 million, but the bulk are carried internally.

British Airways has trimmed staff from 59,000 to 35,000 in a cost-cutting drive to bring the airline back to profits and fit for sale to private investors. It is believed by aviation industry commentators to have made around £60 million (\$90 million) net profits in the year up to last month.

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Moscow, Peking sign border trade accord

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union and China Sunday signed two agreements on developing border trade, the official news agency TASS reported.

It said the main accord was signed in the northern Chinese city of Harbin and covered goods exchanges across the Amur and Ussuri rivers.

A second agreement was signed in the Chinese town of Hailar covering trade between Soviet southern Siberian border areas and the northern part of Chinese inner Mongolia.

TASS said the accord followed a final two-week round of negotiations in Harbin.

Talks on the accord started before moves towards Sino-Soviet rapprochement got under way last year, but their speedy completion was a further sign that relations are improving.

Border trade between the two countries is expected to remain relatively small in volume, but Sunday's accord will help repair traditional commercial links ruptured by the Sino-Soviet hostilities of the past two decades.

Freak rains wash away Cuban hopes

HAVANA (R) — Freak rains have dealt a serious blow to Cuba's largely agricultural economy, already reeling under the impact of foreign debts, a shortage of hard currency and low sugar prices on the world market.

The unseasonal tropical storms that have dumped five times the average winter rainfall on Cuba have in particular hit the sugar harvest, which usually brings the world's largest sugar exporter about 80 per cent of its foreign income.

The official newspaper Granma underlined Cuba's misfortunes in a front-page editorial on the weather: "The setback occurred... just as it was more important than ever for us to ensure the maximum revenue possible in freely convertible currency."

The crop is now at least one million tonnes behind schedule, according to official figures.

Granma said eventual losses could be "much more grave", adding weight to diplomats' forecasts that the harvest this year would be seven million tonnes at the most, compared with 8.2 million tonnes in 1981-82.

Diplomats say President Fidel Castro's government faces the choice of either cutting sugar exports to the West and reducing its hard currency income or reducing exports to the Soviet Union, which pays well but in non-convertible currency.

"The shortfall could show up in cuts to the three million tonnes it sells to the West, admittedly at very low prices these days, but in dollars at least," one diplomat explained.

"Or Cuba could decrease exports to the Soviet Union, which guarantees prices well above the market rate, albeit in non-convertible currency," he added.

The international market slump, which has reduced sugar prices to a quarter of their value three years ago, has already hit Cuba hard. Its crucial imports from the West fell to around \$800 million this year compared with \$1.1 billion two years ago.

Diplomats said that with no big price rise likely in the glutted world market, Cuba faced a contraction of its economy.

Last year it sold almost three million tonnes of sugar on the world market and more than four million to the Soviet bloc.

Most western diplomats agreed that with the likely cooperation of the Soviet Union, Cuba would try to maintain its dollar-earning exports as much as possible to bolster flagging monetary reserves estimated at less than \$100 million.

No cash estimate of the total losses has been made but their magnitude can be gauged by Cuba's decision to start talks on aid with the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

The freak weather also hit Cuba just as it tried to stretch out repaying about one third of its \$3.5 billion debt to the West.

Declining crude oil prices and uncertainty about future oil demand have brought a sharp reduction in deep-water drilling and production, the Oil and Gas Journal reports.

Deep-water drilling and production still are under way in scattered areas of the non-communist world, the weekly trade publication reports in its issue scheduled for release Monday.

But in general the oil industry's exploration departments, operating with reduced budgets, have backed away from deep-water prospects in favour of shallower waters, where a discovery will yield a faster payout, according to the journal.

A sudden jump in the price of oil or a sharp tightening of supply could reverse the situation dramatically, but these factors have not been predicted by many forecasters, the magazine reports.

The industry has demonstrated its ability to drill in more than 5,000 feet (1,524 meters) of water, and plans are under way to tackle drilling as much as 6,500 feet (1,981 meters) below the surface.

But deep-water production technology has not caught up with advances in deep-water drilling, due largely to a scarcity of discoveries in deeper water, the journal said.

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The industry has demonstrated its ability to drill in more than 5,000 feet (1,524 meters) of water, and plans are under way to tackle drilling as much as 6,500 feet (1,981 meters) below the surface.

But deep-water production technology has not caught up with advances in deep-water drilling, due largely to a scarcity of discoveries in deeper water, the journal said.

Declining crude oil prices and uncertainty about future oil demand have brought a sharp reduction in deep-water drilling and production, the Oil and Gas Journal reports.

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Group of 77 calls for bigger loans

BUENOS AIRES (R) — The "Group of 77" developing nations ended a five-day ministerial conference Saturday, during which they called for bigger loans and an easing of import restrictions by industrialised countries.

Their proposals, which will be put to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Belgrade in June, were worked out during a five-day meeting.

Resolutions adopted during the conference call for increased lending to the Third World by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The resolutions also call on developed countries to lift restrictions on the import of products from poorer nations and demand the setting up of an international fund to protect commodity prices.

In addition, the Group of 77, which was founded by developing nations at the first UNCTAD conference in 1964 to define Third World attitudes to international economic issues, recommended special aid for the world's least developed countries, including the conversion of existing development loans into outright grants.

The Group of 77 called on the IMF to increase its allocation of special drawing rights (SDR) by at least \$15 billion annually and to increase its credit facility to compensate countries for a decline in export earnings.

In addition, it said the World Bank should shorten its current \$60-billion 1982-86 lending programme into four years from the five years originally planned.

In order to halt the fall in price of the Third World's main export commodities, the conference urged that a common fund to support commodity prices should be set up by Jan. 1, 1984 at the latest.

Oil drilling, production decline

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World recession, political uncertainty hit Hong Kong's business

HONG KONG (R) — The sudden impact of the world recession and uncertainty over Hong Kong's political future have shaken the British colony's normally optimistic entrepreneurs.

Growing unemployment, falling profits and a big government deficit are among the visible signs that Hong Kong's luck seems to have run out for the short term after a long boom period.

Adding to the gloom is uncertainty about the future of what China considers to be its territory under British administration. Britain says it has leased most of the area until 1997.

While Peking and London discuss the future of Hong Kong and its five million people, the territory's top businessmen make soothing noises and try to inspire confidence by announcing projects going beyond 1997.

Hong Kong's present economic problems first appeared late last year when property and share prices plunged after a visit to Peking by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Comments from both sides indicated considerable differences of opinion over Hong Kong where, overnight, fortunes were wiped out as share prices sank and some of the colony's biggest companies ran into liquidity problems because of heavy commitments in the property market.

The effects were dramatised lately when four of the colony's biggest firms, the so-called Hongs, announced their 1982 results — and all had sharply lower profits.

For Jardine, Matheson, the trading house that is Hong Kong's leading company, the decline was only 2.1 per cent. But it was the first year.

Sister company Hong Kong Land, the colony's property giant, went into the red by \$77 million after making a profit of \$208 million in 1981.

Cheung Kong, another property-based firm put together in recent years by Chinese businessman Mr. Li Ka-Shing to challenge the dominance of the British Hongs, fared little better. Its profits slumped 62 per cent to \$78 million after the provision of \$68 million for diminished land values.

Mr. Li added that although the basic structure of Hong Kong's economy was sound, the company could expect even lower profits in 1983.

By contrast, Mr. David Newbigging, chairman of both Jardine's and Hong Kong Land, felt that economic growth would return this year, although it would depend on recovery in the United States.

Economic analysts say a recovery will also depend on attracting back some of the capital that fled the colony after the stock and property markets plunged.

There is no clear estimate of how much has moved out of Hong Kong, where newspapers frequently carry advertisements for exotic foreign real estate, sometimes implying that purchase confers the right of residence abroad.

Although some capital would have fled because of fear for the future, other funds would have gone overseas merely to earn more interest than is possible in Hong Kong where the prime rate is only 10.5 per cent and investors are paid considerably less.

According to unconfirmed reports here, some Asian leaders have told Britain not to rock the boat in its discussions with Peking so as not to damage their own countries' investments in the colony or cause a full-scale flight of capital out of the region to Europe and North America.

China, meanwhile, does not acknowledge that the economic situation is in any way due to uncertainty about the future.

The Chinese media say that other factors, such as the world recession, are to blame.

The recession has resulted in some gloomy statistics, while encouraging foreign firms to consider short term investments to take advantage of Hong Kong's labour costs.

A record \$1.4 billion was invested in Hong Kong's manufacturing industry last year, a 10 per cent increase over 1981, and the industry department says it has 800 investment inquiries on its books.

However, unemployment has risen lately and now stands at 100,000 or 4.3 per cent of the work force. Last year it was three per cent over the same period.

The government expects a deficit for the first time in years after an unexpected shortfall in the year that ended March 31.

Its response was to raise taxes on many items ranging from cigarettes — still cheap at the equivalent of \$1 for 20 — to the departure fee at Kai Tak airport. This will rise five-fold to equal \$15.

Mr. John Marden, chairman of the Hong Kong chamber of commerce, said lately that the present economic situation would have several benefits in the long term.

"The unhealthy speculative element of the past four or five years has been eliminated," he said.

"Rock bottom industrial land prices and rentals together with availability of new building stock in every industrial area are creating new opportunities for the manufacturing sector."

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WORLD

Rush to return shuttle to space

KENNEDY SPACE CENTRE, Florida (R) — The space shuttle Challenger, which completed its first space voyage Saturday, must be ready for another flight in 60 days according to official plans.

That is considerably less time than the shortest period it took to prepare the first shuttle, Columbia, for another flight, but officials say they can do it.

"We think we can do it in 60 days," Tom Utzman, director of shuttle management and operations at the Kennedy Space Centre, told reporters last week.

"There are several thousand people here who don't think it is a fantasy," he said. "It will be a very

tough operation but we don't see any insurmountable obstacles."

The speed-up in operations is necessary because of a two-and-a-half month delay with Challenger due to engine leaks.

Despite the delay, officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are trying hard to get in all the missions planned for this year, especially the September flight of a European-built spacelab.

Spacelab is a large shuttle-borne capsule that will allow several scientists, including the first European member of a U.S. space crew, to conduct experiments while in orbit.

Its first week-long mission is extremely important to the United States and the consortium of West European nations which designed and built the vehicle.

If it is not launched by early October at the latest it would have to wait until February for its first flight because winter weather over Europe would limit some of its ground-mapping experiments.

There are two more flights of Challenger, now scheduled for June and August, before the spacelab mission and a secret Defence Department mission planned for the end of the year.

"We're aiming for all five mis-

sions," the head of the shuttle programme, Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson, said before Challenger blasted off on its maiden voyage.

As it is, the U.S.-European venture already has been dealt a setback by Challenger's delay.

The eighth shuttle flight, now set for August, was to have deployed another satellite to complete a new communications network for relaying data expected to be gathered by spacelab.

Officials have said, however, that spacelab must proceed with only one of the two satellites deployed — the one put in space by Challenger this week.

Hippo, lion meat fail to meet expectations

NEW YORK (R) — The roast haunch of kangaroo was dry and tasteless, like week-old roast beef. The bear meatballs had the flavour and texture of fast-food hamburgers left on the warmer too long. The African lion burgers were — dare it be said? — too gamey.

The sauteed rocky mountain oysters — testicles of mountain goats — and the barbecued wild hare shoulders were just a mile tough.

But for 1,200 diners in a New York hotel Saturday night, it was a feast to bring back the heroic ages.

The exotic fare is a yearly tradition for members of the Explorers Club, a reminder of how their spiritual ancestors sustained themselves in the wilds from Africa to Antarctica in the days before freeze-dried foods turned into gourmet foods at the touch of a star.

"It's really all quite delicious," one explorer's wife said, sinking her fork into slab of hippopotamus liver pate.

"You must try the lion burgers, if you haven't yet. Of course they're a bit tough, but I put it down to jet lag and freezing. They did have to be flown in all the way from Africa."

"Just a little on the tough side," said an old gentleman spooning up his beaver stew.

But for one untutored diner, who has feasted in Asia on curried cobra, fried crickets, stewed turtle and roast gibbon, the only thing remotely palatable was the sturgeon, served as baked mousse.

In the early days of the Explorers Club, which is about 80 years old, most of the provisions for the dinners were shipped to New York on the hoof by members in the field. Some still was, but the bulk came from gourmet stores.

"The exotic menu is a rite of passage," said Jay Healdy, the club's press officer. "Don't let it distract you from the serious nature of our organisation."

"The club has 3,000 members, with chapters throughout the world, people who are very serious about exploration. It enables people in various parts of the world to engage in field research in a wide range of disciplines."

The journey that the club rewarded Saturday night was the first circumnavigation of the world by both Poles, a trip seven years in preparation and three years in travel.

The journey was completed in August 1952 by the British Transglobe expedition team, led by Sir Raulph and Lady Virginia Finnes, Charles Burton and Oliver Shepard.

Valuable human skeleton found in Nile Valley

WASHINGTON (R) — A human skeleton unearthed last year in Egypt and dated at between 60,000 and 80,000 years old could offer new clues about human evolution, according to American scientists.

The almost complete skeleton, discovered by archaeologist Fredendorf in a desolate part of the Nile Valley, was flown to the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History this week so that experts here could free it from a half-metre block of sandstone in which it is encased.

Anthropologists would try to determine if the skeleton is a Neanderthal, as Wendorf believes, or a primitive member of the evolutionary line that led to modern humans, as others suspect.

Smithsonian officials said the worked could take up to a year, after which the skeleton would be returned to Egypt.

Neanderthals are a line of early hominids who disappeared about 45,000 years ago. Only 150 finds of their skeletal remains have been recorded throughout the world, and none has ever been discovered in Egypt.

Discoveries of early modern

human remains are even more rare and few have been reliably dated as far back as 60,000 years.

Dale Stewart, physical anthropologist emeritus at the museum and an authority on Neanderthals, has already begun removing the bones from the sandstone block with a pencil-shaped tool that sprays a fine jet of compressed air to flake the stone away from the skeleton.

He told reporters that classification of the skeleton could help settle a dispute in the scientific community about whether modern man evolved directly from the Neanderthal.

Stewart said he believes Neanderthals were in fact a completely separate line of early humans, perhaps forced into hiding in caves and eventually driven out of existence by the more war-like ancestors of modern man.

"If it turns out to be a primitive man rather than a Neanderthal, that might actually be more significant. It would show us that the modern line already existed 60,000 to 80,000 years ago and thus that the separation from Neanderthals goes back that far," he said.

U.N. resumes its efforts to solve Afghan problem

GENEVA (R) — United Nations special envoy Diego Cordovez meets officials from Afghanistan and Pakistan separately here Monday in resumed efforts to find a political solution to the Afghan political crisis.

His discussions with the Afghan and Pakistani deputy foreign ministers will be held at the Palais des Nations, the world organisation's European headquarters.

The talks are scheduled to last until April 22, but could be extended or shortened as necessary, U.N. officials said.

The meetings will be separate because Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan on the south and east, does not recognise the Soviet-backed government of Babrak Karmal which took power in late 1979.

After an initial session of procedural talks on Friday, Cordovez told reporters that negotiations had already become substantive and he hoped delegations could get down to drafting texts of an agreement.

"We have received a very categorical expression of the desire that this process should lead to a political settlement of the situation," he said in a reference to talks he had with governments in Kabul, Islamabad and Tehran earlier this year.

Perez de Cuellar said then he felt encouraged by what he heard in Moscow. "We go again to the parties with renewed enthusiasm in order to press for a solution to the problem," he told reporters.

Besides the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, demanded repeatedly by the U.N. General Assembly, the world organisation is seeking the return home of Afghan refugees who, according to Pakistani estimates, total three million in Pakistan and 1.5 million in neighbouring Iran.

Cordovez said on Friday that this week negotiators would discuss mechanisms for consulting refugees on conditions under which they would be prepared to return home.

Right hand becomes left in revolutionary operation

BOSTON (R) — In a revolutionary surgical procedure, eight doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital have transferred a man's right hand, which he was unable to use because of arm damage, to replace his badly mangled left hand.

The 19-hour operation was conducted seven weeks ago but was revealed only last week "It should work," Dr. James May, the micro-surgeon who headed the surgical team, said at a press conference.

The doctor said the patient now had a complete left hand and it was hoped he would soon have full use of it. He was now able to hold a cup.

The patient, photographer William Anderson, had lost his right thumb, use of his right arm, and four fingers on his left hand in an explosion six years ago when a cannon he was loading for a memorial day celebration went off accidentally.

The 35-year-old patient told reporters his goals now were to play golf by the age of 40 and to be an active television cameraman.

Dr. May said it was the first time a hand had been transferred so long after the injury. The two other documented cases involved surgery that immediately followed an accident.

He said the procedures used by his team could eventually lead to

widespread limb transfer — including limbs from one person to another.

The operation involved transferring Anderson's right wrist, four fingers and palm to his left hand while keeping that hand's thumb.

Bone, arteries and veins had to be joined and nerves from the right hand transferred to the left.

Anderson's right arm was amputated in the operation and replaced with an artificial limb.

The doctors said they also had to shorten the size of the fingers because in the transplantation they used the little finger of Anderson's right hand as the index finger of the new left hand.

They also had to transfer new nerves to the little finger so that it could function as an index finger.

Anderson said the decision to go ahead with the operation was the most difficult one he had to make.

"I was scared to death. But I believed in Dr. May," Anderson said.

He added that when he woke up after the operation, "I looked at the hand and it was a strange bed-fellow. Suddenly I was looking at a hand with fingers — a hand."

Despite his accident, Anderson had continued working as a photographer — using his teeth to pull open his cameras and his left thumb to shoot.

IRA warns Omagh about British troops

BELFAST (R) — A garage was demolished by a bomb Omagh Sunday soon after the Irish Republican Army (IRA) warned people in the Northern Ireland market town not to trade with British soldiers.

The bomb was planted 24 hours after guerrillas killed a British soldier with a booby trap bomb in Omagh.

Police said the garage owner had no connection with the two British army barracks in Omagh, 80 kilometres from Belfast.

"But there is a possibility that the garage was attacked because unmarked army cars may have filled up with petrol there," a police spokesman said in Belfast.

The guerrilla organisation warned people not to trade with soldiers and added a death threat against people who supplied or were involved in construction work at barracks in Omagh.

No one was injured by Sunday's bomb blast but a fireman was hurt when a beam fell on his legs as he fought the flames.

Salvadorean rebels use psychological weapon

By Robert Block
Reporter

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Leftist guerrillas in El Salvador's civil war have found an effective psychological weapon in their practice of treating captured government soldiers humanely and releasing them quickly.

Military officials say a practice born of necessity has now become part of the guerrillas' campaign to sap the army's morale and destroy its will to fight.

"A Salvadorean soldier does not surrender. He fights to the death," says a poster hanging in military garrisons throughout the country.

Nonetheless, since the beginning of the year, insurgent forces have captured and released more than 400 soldiers.

Guerrilla leaders say they aim to encourage soldiers to surrender in the heat of battle in the knowledge that they will be treated well and set free, often with some money to see them on their way.

Military commanders say the objective is to sow divisions between officers and their men which would sharply reduce the army's effectiveness in battle.

India denies religious grounds for recent disturbances in Assam

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Indian government has strongly refuted reports that the recent wave of violence which swept the northeastern state of Assam was rooted on religious or communal grounds.

"It is entirely wrong to give a communal or religious character and portray the incidents in Assam as attacks by Hindus on Muslims," a statement issued by the Indian embassy in Amman said.

The statement pointed out that the victims of the violence, which followed state elections in the Brahmaputra Valley state last month, included Muslims, Hindus and others alike as well as the tribal people of Assam.

In an outburst of violence which followed the elections, which was

boycotted by ethnic Assamese who complain about large-scale influence in the state by immigrants, about 2,000 people have been killed and entire villages burnt down.

The embassy statement described the incidents as involving "groups with differing citizen status... groups with differing linguistic affiliations... groups with different ethnic background... and groups with different occupational background."

The statement also said the Indian government received the news of the violence with "universal sorrow and regret."

The two Houses of Parliament in New Delhi had adopted a resolution condemning the incidents.

"This house, after discussing the situation in Assam, condemns the

brutal killings and the riots that took place there and appeals to the people of Assam to strengthen the feeling of mutual cooperation and find a solution to the complicated problem amicably and help the administration in restoring peace," the resolution said.

Debating the resolution, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi expressed deep concern over the incidents and said: "My heart is so full of sorrow that I can hardly speak... every life that is lost, whose it may be, hurts and we can find no words of comfort for those people whom I have seen in the various camps."

Immediately after reports of widespread violence in Assam in February, Mrs. Gandhi visited the state and met many of the victims of the violence.

Sydney economic summit starts today

SYDNEY (R) — The Australian government could set aside many of its election promises when it meets business and trade union leaders for a week-long economic summit Monday, political and economic analysts said.

They said the Canberra meeting, to be chaired by Prime Minister Bob Hawke, could turn out to be a means for the government to set aside many of its big spending election promises.

Since coming to power in a landslide win last month Hawke's government has been confronted with the full impact of the world recession and its effects on Australia's stalled economy.

Unemployment is running at around 10 per cent, inflation at more than 11 per cent and the treasury has forecast the government spending deficit in the coming year will be 9.60 billion dollars (\$8.30 billion) compared with about 6 billion dollars (\$5.20 billion) to the end of June this year.

The forecast has prompted stern warnings from Hawke and his cabinet that it might now be able to fulfill all of its big spending pre-election pledges.

These included tax cuts and job creation schemes aimed at reducing unemployment, an issue which analysts said was clearly the major factor behind the Fraser

government's defeat.

While it is vital for Hawke to be seen to be doing something to ease the plight of the jobless, his government also has to show international investors it will not act irresponsibly.

Fears that the government's mildly socialist policies would further run down the economy led to a massive withdrawal of investment capital and the subsequent 10 per cent devaluation of the Australian dollar against its U.S. counterpart.

Political analysts said the success of the meeting was vital for the Hawke government.

U.S. allegedly plans military base in Honduras to train Salvadorean troops

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Times Sunday quoted two top Reagan administration officials as saying the United States was planning to establish a military base in Honduras to train Salvadorean soldiers.

In a separate report, the Times quoted Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega Saavedra as saying that revolutionaries inside Honduras might strike the Honduran army forces if attacks against his country continued to be launched from Honduras.

The newspaper did not name the officials who spoke of the base. One said the Defence Department

expected to have the facility operating in six weeks to two months with a staff of about 100 U.S. military advisers.

The Times reported that the other officials said agreement in principle on the base had been reached by Honduras and the United States and only the details needed to be worked out.

Defence Department spokesman declined to comment on the Times report.

Sandinist accusation

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's ruling party Saturday accused the U.S. of launching an undeclared

war on Nicaragua and said the prospect of a direct U.S. military intervention could not be ignored.

The Sandinist National Liberation Front said Washington's latest effort to undermine its rule was its backing of an invasion recently of U.S.-armed insurgents into the northeastern Atlacasta jungle province on the Atlantic coast. No details were given.

In Buenos Aires, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto told reporters Honduran troops had been directly involved in fighting between Nicaraguan soldiers and right-wing opponents of the Sandinists.

Leftist guerrillas begin offensive as U.S. officials arrive in El Salvador

SAN JOSE LAS FLORES, El Salvador (R) — Left-wing guerrillas have renewed their offensive in El Salvador, attacking this small town for six hours, killing one government militia member, injuring five and destroying an apartment building.

Military officials said the heavily-armed rebel band launched the raid Friday using Chinese-made RPG-2 rockets.

Two guerrillas died in the battle with local militia before army and police reinforcements arrived to drive away the remaining insurgent force, the officials said.

Army units were patrolling the hills and forest surrounding the town near the slopes of the Guazapa volcano, a rebel stronghold.

The attack came on the second day of a guerrilla offensive launched in retaliation for the assassination of one of the insurgents' leaders in Nicaragua earlier this week.

Melinda Anaya Montes, a leader of the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL), one of the five guerrilla groups fighting the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador, was killed by unidentified gunmen in Managua on Wednesday.

U.S. team visits

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Five U.S. officials arrived in El Salvador Saturday to analyse the country's controversial justice system, a member of the party said.

Dona Jean Hrinak from the U.S. State Department said the team would stay for a week at the request of El Salvador's government to review a justice system which has come under sharp criticism from human rights groups and U.S. officials.

"Right now we are only here to listen. The Salvadoreans asked to come and help them reform their justice system. Whether that involves financial or technical help we are not really sure yet," she said.

Human rights groups allege that many murders are committed by military or paramilitary groups and suspects are often never charged or, if charged, come to trial.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Walesa awarded Swedish prize

STOCKHOLM (R) — An empty chair filled with red and white flowers symbolised absent Polish labour leader Lech Walesa at an award ceremony Saturday night. The prize for his work for freedom was accepted on his behalf by the head of banned free trade union Solidarity outside Poland, Jerzy Milewski. Worth 50,000 crowns (\$7,000) the prize was awarded by two liberal Scandinavian newspapers. Walesa said in a message Solidarity's ideas lived on in the hearts of millions of Poles and could not be crushed by force. He asked for flowers in his national colours to be placed in an empty chair after announcing he could not visit Sweden because of the delicate political situation in Poland.

Warsaw ghetto uprising marked

WARSAW (R) — Polish authorities Saturday opened two weeks of ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising against the Nazis which opposition figures have said are being used for political ends. The ceremonies, the biggest yet planned on the anniversary of the uprising, began on a subdued note with a wreath-laying at the tomb of Poland's Unknown Warrior and a meeting attended by senior communists, foreign diplomats and organisers.

Aeroflot crew awarded medals

MOSCOW (R) — The crew of a Soviet Aeroflot plane have been awarded medals for foiling a hijacking, according to a decree published Sunday in the bulletin of the Supreme Soviet. An air hostess was awarded the order of the red banner of labour and four male crew were given lesser awards. No details were given of when or where the hijack attempt took place but the decree identified the aircraft involved as a Yak-40, used only on domestic flights.

Colombian novelist returns home

BOGOTA (R) — Nobel Literature Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez returned to Colombia Saturday night, ending two years of self-imposed exile from his homeland. The novelist, who went to Mexico in 1981 after being granted asylum, was welcomed by Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Calcedo. Marquez, whose novel "100 Years of Solitude" has sold more than a million copies, left after accusing the Colombian government of persecuting him for left-wing connections. President Belisario Betancur said shortly after taking office last year that Marquez should be honoured as a national figure.

Film producer's niece in shock

ROME (R) — The 18-year-old niece of Italian film producer Dino de Laurentiis was in a state of shock in a Rome hospital Saturday night after what police believed was a violent kidnapping attempt. Simona di Laurentiis was dragged struggling into a car late Friday night in the fashionable seaside district of Casal Palocco as she returned home with a girl friend from a night out. Police said Simona rang the doorbell of neighbour's house three hours later in a state of shock and flying squad car rushed her to hospital. Officers were at the girl's bedside waiting to question her about the incident but doctors said she was under heavy sedation for shock.

6 Mozambicans executed in Maputo

MAPUTO (R) — Six men sentenced to death by Mozambique's revolutionary military tribunal were executed by firing squad in public Saturday. They included Maputo businessman Goolam Naby who was convicted of smuggling large quantities of weapons out of the country and depositing the earnings in foreign bank accounts. The court was told he headed an extensive network of black-market dealers and thieves. Jose Manderero, an engine driver, was convicted of stealing part of the cargo of maize and sugar on his train, and selling it on the black-market.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take?

Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠7 ♠AQJ1063 ♠A6 ♠1095
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQJ7 ♠J1062 ♠6 ♠AKQ9
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ 4 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?

Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK873 ♠A5 ♠Q1073 ♠K9

Q.4 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ4 ♠AJ632 ♠85 ♠94
What is your opening bid?

Q.5 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠72 ♠K83 ♠85 ♠AQ9764
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
?preemptive.
What do you bid now?

Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠62 ♠AJ8 ♠K10954 ♠KJ5
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?

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